



GOURMET OF ANOTHER WORLD

BOOK 01

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Gourmet of Another World

(异世界的美食家)

by

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Synopsis

In a fantasy world where martial artists can split mountains and creeks with a wave of their hand and break rivers with a kick, there exists a little restaurant like this.

The restaurant isn't large, but it is a place where countless apex existences will rush into.

There, you can taste egg-fried rice made from phoenix eggs and dragon blood rice.

There, you can drink strong wine brewed from vermillion fruit and water from the fountain of life.

There, you can taste the barbecued meat of a ninth grade supreme beast sprinkled with black pepper.

What? You want to abduct the chef? That's not going to happen, because there's a tenth grade divine beast, the Hellhound, lying at the entrance.

Oh, that chef also has a robotic assistant that killed a ninth grade supreme being with a single hand and a group of crazy women whose stomachs were conquered.

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Chapter 1: The Small Restaurant In An Alleyway Of The Imperial City

Hidden Dragon Continent, imperial city of the Light Wind Empire

Within the bustling city, the streets were filled with people and the noise made by them could be heard everywhere. On both sides of the streets were towering buildings and there were plenty of restaurants and inns among them. The fragrant smell of the food cooked by the chefs was wafting through the air and lingered for a long period of time.

Among the restaurants, the number one restaurant in the imperial city, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, was even more crowded, and its business was booming.

Within the imperial city, the buildings were built in a neat and orderly fashion and alleyways were everywhere. If you were to follow the main road and walk past the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, you would find a deep alley after walking for a few dozens of meters. Walking straight into the alleyway and turning left you would see a small and simple restaurant.

There was a big black dog lying in front of the restaurant with its tongue hanging out. Inside the restaurant, there was not even a single customer.

Suddenly, a young man walked out of the restaurant. He had a slim figure and fair skin. His long black hair, along with his fringe,

was pulled back and tied into a ponytail with a thin and long wool rope. He gave off a feeling of neat and tidiness.

"Blacky, it's time to eat." The young man, Bu Fang, was holding a porcelain bowl as he walked out of the restaurant. He placed the bowl in front of the big black dog. The dog, who was formerly behaving lethargically, suddenly became energetic and started to devour the food in the bowl.

After rubbing the silky and clean fur of the dog, Bu Fang smiled and walked back into the restaurant.

Bu Fang, a twenty-year-old male, was an ordinary but ambitious chef from Earth. He suddenly woke up one day and found himself in another world, with the [Gourmet System] mysteriously appearing in his brain. The small restaurant was created by Bu Fang on the second day he arrived, with the help of the system.

Even though a month had passed since he created the restaurant, not a single customer showed up, and Bu Fang had grown used to it. All he had to do everyday was follow the instructions of the [Gourmet System], which was to practice his cooking skills and to make sure to feed the big black dog.

He had no idea where the big black dog came from, he only remembered that it appeared after a week the restaurant was built. The system reminded Bu Fang to periodically feed the dog with his practice ingredients. And so, every time the store opened, the dog would be waiting outside for Bu Fang to feed it.

Strictly speaking, the big black dog was the first customer of Bu Fang, even though it was a freeloader.

Once Bu Fang was back in the restaurant, he took a look at the empty place and sighed. Even though the restaurant was simple, it was neat and tidy. With an area of ten square meters and a few sets of tables and chairs, it was indeed a small restaurant.

As he looked at the three dishes on the menu, Bu Fang could only helplessly give another long sigh.

The menu was a piece of wood hung on a wall in the restaurant with only three dishes on it.

It was hard to imagine what kind of a restaurant would only have three dishes on its menu, and the prices listed... could only be described as ridiculous.

A portion of Stir-Fried Vegetables and Dry-Mixed Noodles were each priced at a hundred gold coins, while a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was even more outrageous... it was actually priced at one crystal.

Crystals were something that only cultivators had. A single crystal could be bought for around a thousand gold coins, but it was the kind of stuff where there was no availability.

For a small restaurant, it was an unexpectedly ridiculous price.

Bu Fang did not believe at all that anyone would be foolish

enough to order a dish that expensive. Even though he would agree that the dishes were indeed delicacies when he tried them, but when he looked at the prices... Bu Fang thought it was impossible.

"As the God of Cooking who desires to stand at the top of the fantasy world, how could you not have your first customer? If you get your first customer within a month, you shall obtain a system reward."

That was a mission that the system gave him a few days after he created the restaurant, and there were only three days left until the deadline. Bu Fang looked at the empty alleyway expressionlessly.

"It looks like my dream of becoming the God of Cooking will be destroyed before I can even take the first step." Bu Fang checked the time and sighed inwardly. He stood up, closed the door and locked it.

The dishes could not be brought out without permission, and there was a strict regulation on the opening hours. Even though the restaurant was small, there were lots of rules and regulations. However, as the regulations were set by the system, Bu Fang had to obey them.

The restaurant was closed for the day. After locking up the restaurant, Bu Fang returned to the kitchen to practice his cooking. Actually, the so-called practice did not involve many technical aspects, it was just continuous cooking. Since the system would automatically refill the ingredients, Bu Fang only needed to cook.

In a corner of the kitchen, there was a humanoid robot. This robot was created by the system to reclaim any food that Bu Fang made during practice. Other than the food that Bu Fang and the big black dog ate, the rest of the practice food had to be placed into the robot's stomach area.

After Bu Fang started the fire, he began his daily cooking practice.

Even though Bu Fang was in a fantasy world, the kitchen created by the system was identical to modern kitchens from Earth.

All kinds of equipment were available: smokeless cooking pots, stainless steel knives, cutting boards, exhaust hood, microwave ovens, refrigerators... In fact, they were even more advanced than the ones on Earth. Bu Fang did not face any difficulties when using them, he even preferred cooking with them.

As the night descended, the two moons in the sky were in harmony and the moonlight was like a veil in the sky.

In front of the restaurant, the big black dog was lazing about in blissfulness after it finished its meal, accompanied by the chirping sound of insects as it guarded the store.

The next morning, Bu Fang drowsily woke up. After he washed up, the restaurant was opened for business.

The place was still deserted, and not a single soul could be seen. The big black dog was lying on the floor as usual.

Bu Fang was suddenly envious of the booming business of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant that was outside of the alleyway. Their business was simply too extraordinary, there were so many customers that it seemed that the entrance would be demolished.

Bu Fang began to daydream about the day when his business was as successful as the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"My host, as the gourmet who desires to stand at the very top of the food chain in the fantasy world, you should not be envious of other restaurants. Work hard for the sake of your bright future!"

The mechanical and serious voice of the system resounded in Bu Fang's head as a reminder. He was already used to it. During the past month, whenever he was envious of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, the system would automatically start encouraging him.

Judging from its response, it seemed that the system was quite anthropomorphic.

Bu Fang was sitting on a chair placed outside of the restaurant while enjoying the warm sunlight. He could not help but to slide downwards, so that he was curled up and lying on the chair in an extremely comfortable position.

There was still not a single person appearing in the alleyway.

"Another day without a single customer," Bu Fang thought out loud as he tilted his head and yawned.

The big black dog was lying on the floor, it glanced at Bu Fang before it went back to whatever it was doing.

Just when Bu Fang was about to fall asleep, a series of footsteps woke him up. He lazily opened his eyes and saw a handsome young man passing by. He was dressed in a tight outfit used for martial arts practice.

"Huh? There's actually someone stupid enough to set up a restaurant in an alleyway where almost no one would pass through?"

The young man was actually good looking, he had an oval shaped face, expressive large eyes and red lips. If it was not for his flat chest and protruding adam's apple, Bu Fang would have mistaken him for a girl in disguise.

It seemed to be a trope for girls in fantasy worlds to disguise themselves as males.

The handsome young man seemed to have taken an interest in the restaurant that was opened in an alleyway where no one passed by. He actually started to walk towards the restaurant.

However, Bu Fang did not get up, he still remained seated. Even though the other party had entered the restaurant, he was still not a customer as long as he had not made an order. Bu Fang knew that in order for someone to become a customer, they would first need to accept the ridiculous prices of the dishes.

As expected, when the handsome young man saw the prices on the menu, his originally large eyes became even larger, a piercing scream echoed throughout the silent alleyway.

"Oh my god! A dish of Stir-Fried Vegetables costs a hundred gold coins? And a dish of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs one crystal? Have you gone insane from your greed?"

Chapter 2: The Egg-Fried Rice For The Big Black Dog

The scream resounded around his ears, but Bu Fang ignored it. He was still curled up on the chair with an empty gaze. He was actually looking at the system panel in his mind.

System Objective: Help my host become the God of Cooking that stands at the top of the food chain in the fantasy world

Host: Bu Fang

True Energy Cultivation Level: None (As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of the true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Yet to be unlocked

Skills: Yet to be unlocked

Tools: Yet to be obtained

God of Cooking overall rating: Rookie (Your road to becoming the God of Cooking has only just started. Follow the instructions of the system and become the man at the very top of the food chain in the fantasy world.)

.....

"Hey! Have you been listening?! Are you the owner of this restaurant?" The handsome young man shouted angrily while he stared at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang calmly glanced at the handsome young man, lazily got up and yawned.

"The prices of the dishes in my restaurant are like that, you can leave if you can't accept it. My restaurant has always treated our customers fairly, we don't force anyone into buying anything."

The handsome young man was bewildered by Bu Fang's attitude. After a moment of confusion, his fair-looking face turned red and his eyes flashed with anger. He thought, "Is that the kind of attitude a business owner should have?"

"You... Look at the price of your dishes! How dare you even say that you treat your customers fairly, I bet you're just looking for a sucker to dupe! You scoundrel! Don't give me any excuses, I, Xiao Xiaolong, have already seen your true colors!"

"Do I look like an idiot to you?" Bu Fang replied, a little angry as well. As an ambitious chef with dreams, he hated it when others called him a scoundrel.

"I have my own reasons for setting it at that price. If you're not interested in ordering, you can always leave. I am not forcing you to stay."

Bu Fang felt unlucky. He had been waiting since morning and instead of a customer showing up, he had to deal with a troublesome sissy. He thought, "Why is it so difficult to run a business?"

The handsome young man became even more testy. He crossed his arms and coldly stared at Bu Fang, "Hmph! Are you trying to goad me? You probably thought that I would be provoked into ordering a dish, right? Then you would have successfully fleeced me, you think I am an idiot!"

Bu Fang was turned speechless by the handsome sissy in front of him. He headed towards his kitchen expressionlessly to begin his daily cooking practice.

"What's wrong!? Are you feeling guilty? You have nothing to say now that I have revealed your sinister intentions! Let me tell you this, I, Xiao Xiaolong, am a great prodigy who hates injustice. I hate scoundrels like you the most." The handsome young man continued to stand there while hurling insults. However, even after waiting for a while, there was still no reply from Bu Fang.

"I will definitely make sure everyone in the imperial city knows about you! I will make sure your restaurant closes down! Oh... I don't even need to do that, anyone who sees your prices will think that you're an idiot!"

Xiao Xiaolong was annoyed that he was being ignored, so he continued to threaten Bu Fang.

Silence... The small restaurant became extremely quiet, but soon a smell wafted from the kitchen.

Xiao Xiaolong stood there for a while, stared at the prices on the menu, finally the corner of his mouth twitched, he shook his head and decided to leave.

For a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables to be sold for a hundred gold coins, that was simply... insane!

In the Light Wind Empire, the smallest currency unit was the copper coin. A silver coin was worth more than a copper coin, while a gold coin was worth the most. A single gold coin was more than enough for an ordinary family in the empire to survive for an entire month. A hundred gold coins... That was simply impossible for an ordinary person to afford!

What was more, the Egg-Fried Rice actually needed a crystal! What was a crystal? It was a necessity to a cultivator, one crystal would be equivalent to a thousand gold coins!

Only a madman would set a price like that!

The furious Xiao Xiaolong turned around and walked towards the entrance of the restaurant. Suddenly, his nose twitched a little.

"It smells good!"

A burst of smell had drifted from the kitchen and lingered around Xiao Xiaolong's nose. It was as if the smell had solidified and slid across his face like a piece of silk. It felt like a lover's caress, causing his entire body to shiver in pleasure.

At last, Xiao Xiaolong found the source of the smell. He turned around and looked into the back of the kitchen. A slim figure holding a porcelain bowl in his fair hands emerged from the kitchen, as waves of rich fragrance continuously wafted from the bowl.

"Are you trying to tempt me? Hmph! No matter how delicious your cooking is, I won't be tricked!"

When Xiao Xiaolong saw Bu Fang walking towards him, he proudly raised his head and snorted coldly. Of course, were it not for his twitching nostrils giving him away, Bu Fang might really have thought he could not be tempted by delicious food.

Finally, Xiao Xiaolong could not endure the temptation anymore and his stomach rumbled.

"Since you're sincerely offering me a taste of your food, then... I shall reluctantly have one bite."

Xiao Xiaolong turned his head towards Bu Fang and said.

However, he was still speaking in a condescending tone, as if eating the food was a great honour for Bu Fang.

However, in the next moment Xiao Xiaolong was shocked. Bu Fang did not stop in front of him, but instead he ignored him and walked toward the entrance.

The confused Xiao Xiaolong was furious. He turned to stare at Bu Fang but the next scene enraged him even further.

Bu Fang squatted down next to the big black dog at the entrance and placed the bowl filled with the delicious smelling food in front of it.

"Blacky, it's time to eat."

Bu Fang rubbed the smooth and clean fur of the dog and smiled.

When Bu Fang saw that the lethargic dog suddenly became energetic and gobbled down the food he made, his smile grew even wider.

Xiao Xiaolong felt as he was struck by lightning, he felt that Bu Fang had just humiliated him in the most outrageous manner!

"You... You..."

Xiao Xiaolong's lips were trembling as he pointed towards Bu

Fang with his long and feminine finger.

"Huh? You're still here?" Bu Fang exclaimed in surprise.

Bu Fang's exaggerated expression made Xiao Xiaolong feel as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. He thought, "Ouch, it hurts!"

Xiao Xiaolong's lips trembled in anger, he snorted and stamped his feet angrily, as if... he was a spoiled child and rushed out of the restaurant.

"This sissy... has gone crazy."

Xiao Xiaolong had reached the entrance and was going to walk out, when his nose twitched once again. He unconsciously turned his head and looked inside of the porcelain bowl that the big black dog was eating from. The pearl-like rice grain wrapped in golden fried egg, it was so beautiful that it was like a work of art.

However, at that very moment, the artistic Egg-Fried Rice was being eaten by a big black dog... A black dog... A dog!

"Hmm?!" The big black dog was enjoying its meal when it suddenly paused, as if it felt something, it looked up only to find a sissy staring at its food bowl. Alertness immediately appeared in its eyes.

Then, Xiao Xiaolong watched as the big black dog reached out

towards the bowl with its paws and pulled it closer to its body. The dog alertly bared its teeth towards Xiao Xiaolong. On its teeth, there were still some pearl-like rice grains.

"Am I being looked down upon by a dog..."

Xiao Xiaolong went into a daze for around two seconds, then flew into a rage.

Da da da!

Xiao Xiaolong's face turned bright red, and his eyes flashed with anger as he walked back into the shop.

Bu Fang glanced at Xiao Xiaolong expressionlessly.

"Give me a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice! Hmph! I shall taste it myself. If it doesn't taste good, I will get the authorities to shut down your restaurant!"

Xiao Xiaolong threatened with a grimace on his face.

Chapter 3: The Egg-Fried Rice That Shines

Xiao Xiaolong's face was blushing but he was still speaking in a belligerent tone, Bu Fang glanced at him meaningfully and smirked.

Xiao Xiaolong blinked and his fair skin was bright red, but he still belligerently said, "Let me say this first, I am ordering not because I have accepted the price. It's because I intend to prove that your Egg-Fried Rice is not worth the price!"

"I get it, a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, right? Wait for it," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied. He waved his hand and was heading towards the kitchen, "Oh, right. Our Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables are pretty good as well. Do you want to give them a try?"

"It is said that Egg-Fried Rice tastes better with Stir-Fried Vegetables." Bu Fang stopped in front of the entrance to the kitchen, looked back, and coolly and shamelessly advertised his other two dishes.

Xiao Xiaolong's mind went into a daze for a moment, then glanced at the prices of the dishes and suddenly felt an inexplicable pain in his chest.

"No need! Just give me the Egg-Fried Rice."

"Oh, okay then. That's just too bad." Bu Fang nodded and entered the kitchen.

Seeing Bu Fang's calm expression, Xiao Xiaolong was tempted to punch him in the face. He thought, "A hundred gold coins for a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables, do you really take me for a sucker? To actually charge a hundred gold coins for something that is only worth 10 copper at most, this is probably the only store in the entire continent that would dare to do this."

While Bu Fang was preparing the Egg-Fried Rice, Xiao Xiaolong was bored stiff and his gaze naturally shifted towards the big black dog sitting at the entrance, or to be exact, the bowl that it was eating from.

In his mind, Xiao Xiaolong recalled the smell of the Egg-Fried Rice. It was like supple silk and like the touch of a lover. All of a sudden, his appetite surged and his stomach rumbled like thunder. Fortunately, there were no other customers in the store, otherwise, young master Xiao who was known in the imperial city for his stylishness and mannerism would be in an embarrassing situation.

The big black dog was still eating from its bowl when it suddenly paused, as if it had felt something, and lifted its head. When its eyes landed on Xiao Xiaolong and realized that the foolish human was still staring at its food bowl, it became furious!

The dog pulled the bowl closer to itself, stood up and sat down once again with its behind facing Xiao Xiaolong. It only continued to eat after it blocked his line of vision.

Xiao Xiaolong felt that his chest was once again pierced by an invisible arrow... He was looked down upon by the dog a second time!

"Hmph! Do you think I would desire dog food?! How dare a mere dog look down on a human! Hmph!" Xiao Xiaolong thought angrily.

Five minutes had passed and a fragrant smell wafted out from the kitchen once more. The mellow smell of the egg mixed with the faint aroma of the rice was intoxicating Xiao Xiaolong. Just by inhaling the smell, he was uncontrollably salivating.

"It definitely smells good, but it's still insane to charge a crystal for it!" Xiao Xiaolong thought as he swallowed his saliva.

Finally, Bu Fang stepped out of the kitchen with a bowl in hand. The rich fragrance from the dish diffused into the air and enveloped the entire restaurant in it.

"Here's your Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal."

Bu Fang expressionlessly said as he placed the Egg-Fried Rice in front of Xiao Xiaolong.

White smoke drifted up from the bowl and rolled into the air in front of Xiao Xiaolong before dispersing. The resulting aroma explosion made Xiao Xiaolong unconsciously suck in a deep breath.

Without paying attention to Bu Fang, Xiao Xiaolong stared at the Egg-Fried Rice. He thought, "To dare to charge a crystal for a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... This definitely isn't an ordinary Egg-Fried Rice!"

On top of the white porcelain bowl were pearl-like rice grains. Every single grain was wrapped in a golden egg liquid. That egg liquid was not completely cooked, and was still in a viscous state. It was as if the rice grains were sprinkled with a layer of egg sauce. However, the viscosity of the egg sauce was perfect and was about eighty percent well-done. When mixed together with the rice grains, it was like draping on a golden gauze dress as it glinted with golden radiance.

"It... It is shining!" Xiao Xiaolong stared blankly at the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him.

He had never thought that it would be possible for an Egg-Fried Rice to look like a piece of artwork.

Xiao Xiaolong was of noble birth. As the third son of a great general, he had access to all kinds of gourmet meals. He had tasted Egg-Fried Rice made by his family's chef, and even the Egg-Fried Rice made by the imperial chef from the palace... However, compared to the bowl of shining Egg-Fried Rice in front of him, they lost in both appearance and fragrance.

In actual fact, the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him only contained egg and rice. There were no other ingredients, not even green onions. However, Xiao Xiaolong had an inexplicable feeling that it was definitely much more delicious than the one made by

the imperial chef!

Xiao Xiaolong picked up the blue-and-white porcelain spoon placed on the table, licked his lips and cut into the Egg-Fried Rice. The moment the spoon scooped into the Egg-Fried Rice, a burst of fragrance rushed out and assaulted his sense of smell. As he carefully scooped up a spoonful of egg and rice, it left behind a string of egg liquid.

Without a care in the world, Xiao Xiaolong placed the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth.

The moment the spoon entered his mouth, an exquisite taste shocked his taste buds. The viscous egg suddenly solidified and mixed with the soft and pearl-like rice grains to create an explosion in his mouth!

"Oh my god! How is it possible for such a delicious Egg-Fried Rice to exist in this world?! I actually feel an urge to cry!"

Xiao Xiaolong was completely engrossed with the taste, it was like his entire being was swimming in a sea made from the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice.

Xiao Xiaolong scooped up spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice, even though the heat from the rice was making him sneeze, he was unable to stop.

"Nom nom!"

Xiao Xiaolong's face was almost buried into the bowl as he ate, it was somewhat similar to how the big black dog was when eating the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Delicious!" Xiao Xiaolong completed both scooping and eating in a single motion. As he shouted, a few grains of golden rice flew out of his mouth. His eyes widened as he picked up the rice grains from the tabletop and stuffed them into his mouth.

Bu Fang sat down in front of Xiao Xiaolong and calmly watched the scene unfold. Xiao Xiaolong's way of eating was within his expectations. When he first tried out the Egg-Fried Rice, his appearance was not any better than Xiao Xiaolong's.

Xiao Xiaolong used his tongue to lick the entire bowl clean, going a circle around the bowl's surface. Only after he swallowed the last grain of rice, he finally breathed out with a satisfied expression on his face.

"Is this really Egg-Fried Rice?! It's incredible! Even my family's... No, even the imperial chef wouldn't be able to make this!" Xiao Xiaolong muttered to himself. Bu Fang remained silent while he coldly sat there.

"Now, do you think it's worth a crystal?" Bu Fang asked.

However, Xiao Xiaolong only frowned and smacked his lips. He replied, "Indeed this Egg-Fried Rice is truly a delicacy, but do you even understand the worth of a crystal?"

"A crystal can help a cultivator when cultivating, but can your Egg-Fried Rice do it? They have completely different values! However, I have to admit that your Egg-Fried Rice is absolutely delicious!"

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows in surprise. He did not think that Xiao Xiaolong would give a reason like that. Even though it sounded logical, he still thought, "Is this sissy trying to dine and dash?!"

Just when Bu Fang was about to reply, Xiao Xiaolong's fair-skinned face suddenly turned red. His entire body started to glow, it was like a powerful surge of energy was circulating in his body.

"Burp~~"

Xiao Xiaolong's face returned to normal after belching, but his expression when looking towards Bu Fang was both weird and passionate.

His voice was even trembling...

"Tell... Tell me, what ingredients... are inside of your Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Chapter 4: The Eggs Are Not Ordinary Eggs, The Rice Is Not Ordinary Rice

Xiao Xiaolong was really excited. His fair-skinned face had flushed red like a beautiful woman's face, it was tempting enough that others would want to take a bite of him.

At any rate, even Bu Fang was charmed. He thought, "Oh my god! Why do I have such thoughts?!"

Bu Fang shook his head furiously to rid himself of the scary thought. He thought to himself, "He's a sissy, he's not a woman!"

"I must hold on, I must definitely remain straight!"

Thus, Bu Fang remained expressionless on his chair, while he looked indifferently at the agitated but enchanting Xiao Xiaolong in front of him.

"Tell me! This definitely isn't a normal Egg-Fried Rice! I can feel that the true energy within my body is actually close to reaching a breakthrough!" Xiao Xiaolong's lips were trembling while his eyes shone.

As a famous prodigy in the imperial city and the son of a great general, Xiao Xiaolong was capable with both literary and martial arts. With a cultivation level that reached the peak of second grade Battle-Master, he was considerably strong even among the children of the officials in the imperial city.

However, after Xiao Xiaolong ate the Egg-Fried Rice, he felt a sudden jump in the true energy in his body. For over a month, it lay dormant but it suddenly increased just then. That was a sign that his cultivation level was about to advance to third grade Battle-Maniac!

To a cultivator, strength was the most important. If a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice could help you attain a breakthrough, then it would be comparable to elixirs...

No, it would be even more valuable, because elixirs had no taste. However, the Egg-Fried Rice that Bu Fang made... was an exquisite cuisine.

For it to be both delicious and beneficial to attaining breakthroughs, it was good news to cultivators!

A single crystal was too cheap!

"Excuse me, I was too agitated. However, I would still like to know the ingredients of your Egg-Fried Rice. If I am not mistaken, the eggs used are not ordinary eggs. Judging from the taste and texture, it should be the egg of a third grade spirit beast, the Thunderstorm Pigeon."

Xiao Xiaolong came from a prestigious background and possessed a high amount of self-discipline. He quickly calmed himself down and spoke to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang went into a daze. He had never tried to know more about the ingredients before and had always thought that they were ordinary chicken eggs.

"System, are the eggs really pigeon eggs like the sissy said?" Bu Fang asked the system.

The system remained silent for a while, then a solemn voice began to speak.

"The recipe of the ordinary Egg-Fried Rice: The egg chosen is the first egg laid by the third grade spirit beast, Thunderstorm Pigeon, after its gestation. It contains a huge amount of spirit energy. Consumption increases the cultivation level of cultivators and there is a high chance of helping the cultivator to advance past their bottlenecks. The rice chosen is the Pearl Rice from the Southern Wastelands of the Light Wind Empire. It is rich in spirit energy and can only be harvested per annum. It is rich in substances beneficial to cultivation and is currently the royal tribute of the Light Wind Empire. The oil chosen is made from the fats of the Cangshan Boar, it is neither greasy nor muddy. The salt chosen is the Fine Sea Salt from the Southern Wastelands."

Bu Fang was expressionless after listening to the system's explanations and introduction, but he felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. He thought, "Ouch, it hurts!"

"System, can we revise the price for the Egg-Fried Rice? I personally feel that we're making a loss by selling it for only a

single crystal. Why don't we raise the price to ten crystals?"

"The price set by the system is reasonable and fair, it is based on the price of the ingredients. The current rank of the host is too low, the pricing cannot be modified."

Bu Fang could only grit his teeth in frustration!

The eggs were from a third grade spirit beast. The rice was a royal tribute. The oil was actually made from the fats of a second grade spirit beast. Lastly, even the ordinary looking salt was exceptional as well.

"I am making a huge loss by selling this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice for only a crystal!

Luckily, all of the ingredients are provided by the system. Otherwise, I would be crying myself to sleep tonight."

"Shop owner, my conjecture must be correct! The eggs that you're using are definitely the eggs of Thunderstorm Pigeons. There was a tingling and numbing sensation as it entered my mouth, they're definitely pigeon eggs! There's no way I am wrong!" Xiao Xiaolong got excited once more.

Bu Fang was in a bad mood. Looking at the agitated Xiao Xiaolong, he said.

"Our store's Egg-Fried Rice: The egg chosen is the first egg laid by

the third grade spirit beast, Thunderstorm Pigeon, after its gestation. It contains a huge amount of spirit energy essence..."

Bu Fang repeated the system's introduction—from the beginning to the end—to Xiao Xiaolong.

Xiao Xiaolong was completely stunned, his originally large eyes became even larger. He thought, "My good lord, to think that this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice still held so many secrets! The egg is not ordinary like I thought! The rice is unexpectedly extraordinary! Damn, even the oil is special!

And the salt..." Xiao Xiaolong felt that he had actually swallowed a bowl full of gold!

"So, do you still think that a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice isn't worth one crystal?" Bu Fang grumpily snorted and said.

"No, no, not at all! Shop owner, I would like to order another bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!" Xiao Xiaolong quickly shook his head with a face full of smiles. Eating the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice could increase cultivation level! Even if it were priced at five crystals, Xiao Xiaolong would still think it was worth it!

"I am sorry, but our store has a rule where customers can only order each dish once." Bu Fang arrogantly said while still sitting on the chair.

Xiao Xiaolong went into a daze, then he reached into his bosoms

and took out a sachet with a peony sewn on it. The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched when he saw the peony sachet. If it was not for the fact that Xiao Xiaolong had an adam's apple and no breasts, Bu Fang would definitely think that he was a girl in disguise!

"Here! Shop owner, I have five pieces of crystals here. Give me another bowl!" Xiao Xiaolong excitedly placed the sparkling crystals on the table, and implored Bu Fang in a whiny tone.

Bu Fang completely ignored Xiao Xiaolong and kept the crystal with the best quality that he picked out. He expressionlessly said, "If a male customer continues to act in a feminine manner towards the shop owner, he shall be inexorably added to our store's blacklist and shall never be served again."

Xiao Xiaolong knew he would not be able to eat a second bowl of Egg-Fried Rice on that day, so he stood up and left.

As Xiao Xiaolong was walking past the entrance, he paused and glanced at the empty bowl in front of the big black dog. He felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest.

"Such a valuable bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was actually fed to a dog! What a waste! Hmph!"

The big black dog was a lot lazier after it finished its meal, it licked its own claws as it lay on the floor. As Xiao Xiaolong walked past the dog, it lazily glanced at him and then took no further notice.

Xiao Xiaolong decided to turn a blind eye and left the unique little restaurant in the isolated alleyway.

Bu Fang stood up, collected the bowl in front of Blacky, and then closed the door. The business ended for that day.

Once Bu Fang placed the dishes into the dishwasher provided by the system, he had completed everything. He returned to his room expectantly.

"My host, congratulations for completing your first system mission and receiving the system reward. My host, congratulations for obtaining your first customer and taking the first step onto the road to become the God of Cooking."

Bu Fang excitedly sat on the chair in his room, the solemn voice of the system sounded out in his mind.

"Hehe! It's finally here! What kind of a reward will it be, I am so excited!"

Bu Fang's eyes shone faintly as he rubbed his hands in excitement. The calm exterior that he displayed earlier on had completely disappeared.

Chapter 5: Xiao Yanyu

"System reward: Improved version of Egg-Fried Rice and one fragment of the God of Cooking set."

The solemn voice of the system sounded out, announcing the rewards that Bu Fang had obtained.

After hearing the system's announcement, the expression on Bu Fang's face slowly turned from excited to expressionless.

"Why is it Egg-Fried Rice again? What's so different about the improved Egg-Fried Rice?" Bu Fang was disappointed. He thought that he would unlock newer dishes, but it was still Egg-Fried Rice. Even if it was the improved version... it was still just Egg-Fried Rice!

"The improved version of Egg-Fried Rice has a higher grade than ordinary Egg-Fried Rice and uses different ingredients. Cultivators below the level of third grade Battle-Maniac are not allowed to order this dish."

The system solemnly explained the difference between the improved version and the ordinary version. Bu Fang was slightly surprised but did not think much of it. After all, since it was the improved version, it must be somehow better.

"Then, what is the fragment of the God of Cooking set?"

"Fragments of the God of Cooking set: By collecting all the fragments, the host can exchange them for the God of Cooking set. The kitchen tools that the host is currently using are only ordinary tools."

"This God of Cooking set sounds like something amazing!" Bu Fang blinked in surprise, then a smile appeared on his previously expressionless face.

A new dish mysteriously appeared on the menu of the little restaurant, and there was a price next to it as well.

Improved version of Egg-Fried Rice, ten crystals.

"As a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, how could you not have any short-term goals? System mission: please make a profit of at least a hundred crystals and a thousand gold coins within a week."

The system solemnly assigned a mission to Bu Fang.

In order to make a profit of a hundred crystals within a week, he would need to sell a hundred bowls of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice or ten bowls of the improved version. And in order to make a profit of a thousand gold coins, he would need to sell ten portions of Stir-Fried Vegetables or Dry-Mixed Noodles...

"System, this is too difficult! I only managed to sell a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice today, and you actually want me to sell a hundred bowls

of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice within seven days... Why don't you just kill me instead!?" Bu Fang sorrowfully complained to the system.

However, the system solemnly encouraged Bu Fang instead. "In order to become the God of Cooking, you must not be afraid of any difficult. All of the difficulties that you will encounter are just stepping stones for you to become the greatest!"

However, Bu Fang remained expressionless. He was indifferent to the system's encouragement. Maybe if the system was not using such a solemn tone, Bu Fang might have been duped.

With a sigh, Bu Fang lay down on his bed and closed his eyes.

.....

Xiao Xiaolong was back home at the general's manor, but he seemed a little distracted. The fact that the true energy in his body was still in a stimulated state made everything feel unreal.

"To be able to advance past a bottleneck just by eating a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, this... This is unbelievable." As Xiao Xiaolong recalled the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice, he became enraptured as he imagined himself floating in a sea of fragrance.

The general's manor was huge, Xiao Xiaolong walked past a lot of servants along the way. When the maidservants saw his appearance, they covered their mouth in surprise.

"What's wrong with young master Xiao?"

"What's with the creepy expression on his face!"

"Bleh! That's too scary! My perfect image of young master Xiao has been completely destroyed, he was my first love!"

.....

The conversation between the servants woke Xiao Xiaolong up. When he noticed the servants were gawking at him, he quickened his pace and disappeared from their field of vision.

Xiao Xiaolong was sitting cross-legged in a simple room with his eyes closed. The true energy was circulating in his body and his skin was shimmering, causing him to appear holy.

A burst of energy rushed out of Xiao Xiaolong's energy core into his limbs and acupuncture points. The true energy was gentle like a flowing river that nourishes everything it touches, it was like a gentle kneading by a woman's hands.

After approximately fifteen minutes, Xiao Xiaolong's face reddened and his eyes suddenly opened. As the energy emanating from his body steadily increased, his eyes shone and he opened his mouth to expel a lump of turbid energy.

When it reached an extreme point, it suddenly completely retreated into his body like it never existed in the first place.

As Xiao Xiaolong stood up, the sound of colliding bones resounded all over his body. He lifted up his hand and a dense sphere of true energy appeared in the middle of his palm.

"Haha! Manifestation of true energy! I've truly become a third grade Battle-Maniac!"

Xiao Xiaolong laughed out loud in delight.

"Zhao Ruge! Now, I am a third grade Battle-Maniac as well! I am no longer afraid of you!" Xiao Xiaolong's mouth widened and he started giggling.

However, before he finished laughing, the door to his room was pushed open. The true energy that he used to lock his door was dispersed by an even stronger burst of true energy.

"Xiao Xiaolong! You must be quite capable now, how dare you use your elder sister as a wager in your gamble with Zhao Ruge!"

As the door burst open, a beautiful voice sounded out and a graceful figure stepped into the room.

"Eh? Ah... Elder sister!"

When Xiao Xiaolong saw the intruder, his entire body shivered and he called out in surprise.

The intruder was a beautiful female with fair skin and bright eyes. She was dressed in snow-white robes with an aqua-green transparent vest. Her silk-like hair was let down and allowed to hang free behind her.

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows and she sullenly looked at Xiao Xiaolong. She was angry that her self-styled casanova younger brother actually dared to use her as a wager.

"Elder sister, hear me out first. It's because I fell for the trap set by that damn brat, Zhao Ruge! Don't worry, I will definitely win the gamble! Look, I am already a third grade Battle-Maniac!"

Xiao Xiaolong quickly said as he held out his hand and a sphere of true energy appeared.

Even though Xiao Yanyu was angry, she was still surprised. She was well aware of her younger brother's abilities, he had been stuck at the peak of second grade Battle-Master for quite a while. There was not even a slightest sign of a breakthrough on the previous day, so how did he suddenly succeed?

"Elder sister! Zhao Ruge may be a third grade Battle-Maniac as well, but you should believe in your younger brother! I will definitely beat the daylights out of him!" Xiao Xiaolong said with a laugh.

Xiao Yanyu was a well-known beauty within the imperial city. Zhao Ruge has coveted her beauty for quite some time. However,

since she was the daughter of the Great General Xiao Meng, Zhao Ruge did not dare to do anything, even though he was the son of the Minister of the Left.

If Xiao Yanyu was the daughter of a commoner, she would most likely be Zhao Ruge's concubine by now.

"Elder sister, aren't you curious about how I managed to advance?" Xiao Xiaolong said temptingly.

Xiao Yanyu slightly lifted up her skirt and sat down on a stool. Her bright eyes glanced at Xiao Xiaolong and she said, "Say it, I am listening."

Xiao Xiaolong grinned, he knew that his elder sister would notice the abnormality of his breakthrough.

Xiao Yanyu was extremely intelligent and was known as the number one female prodigy in the Light Wind Empire. He was almost certain that she would notice it.

And so, Xiao Xiaolong secretively leaned over to Xiao Yanyu's ear in an extremely serious manner.

Xiao Yanyu trembled in surprise. She thought, "It looks like this secret might really be something. For my usually frivolous younger brother to be this serious about it, it seems that I should really pay close attention to this."

"Elder sister! The secret to my breakthrough... is actually because of... a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!"

"So it's because of Egg-Fried Rice! Eh?! Huh? Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Xiao Yanyu's beautiful face froze, then turned bright red. This brat, how dare he make fun of his elder sister!

Immediately, Xiao Yanyu's white and long fingers were twisting Xiao Xiaolong's ear. She coldly laughed and said, "I see, so you've grown enough to make fun of your elder sister! So Egg-Fried Rice is an elixir? So it even helps you to advance? What a load of nonsense!"

Xiao Xiaolong felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. "I am telling the truth! Where has the trust between siblings gone to?"

Xiao Xiaolong could only recount his encounter with a grimace on his face, in his description the little restaurant in the alley was an enigmatic place.

"So, you're telling me that you spent a crystal just to eat a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Xiao Yanyu glared at her younger brother who had a triumphant expression on his face, she suddenly had a desire to tear off the ear of this wastrel.

"Elder sister! If you don't believe me, I will bring you to the little restaurant tomorrow. You will definitely be pleased. That taste of the Egg-Fried Rice, that smell... Ohh, it's as if my childhood memories were evoked."

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes were filled with fascination.

However, Xiao Yanyu was in disbelief. She thought, "This brat is definitely under some weird spell. It's just a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, how delicious could it be.

Hmph! We shall see tomorrow, the true face of this mysterious Egg-Fried Rice!"

Chapter 6: Shop Owner, Give Me Ten Bowls Of Egg-Fried Rice First

The next morning.

After washing up, a veil-wearing Xiao Yanyu and an excited Xiao Xiaolong left the general's manor. The manor was situated in an urban area, it was noisy the moment they stepped out.

Even though it was noisy outside, it was peaceful and quiet inside the general's manor. It's all because of the noise-prevention magic formation that was drawn by the architects when the manor was being built.

Xiao Yanyu rarely left the manor as she knew how attractive her appearance was to men. There was one time when she did not wear a veil when she went out, that one incident caused a traffic jam in the imperial city and there were even fighting incidents between playboys. Ever since that incident, Xiao Yanyu rarely left her house. Even if she did, she would wear a veil.

As the Xiao siblings left the manor and turned a corner, they entered a busy street. There were hawkers and their stalls on both sides of the streets, and the smell of deep fried food was drifting in the air.

Cultivators like Xiao Xiaolong and Xian Yanyu would never eat fried food from stalls like this as the oil they used were often of poor quality, and thus contained toxins. The main goal of cultivators was to cleanse their bodies and to get rid of the

impurities in them. Eating these types of food would only increase the impurities in their bodies.

That was why cultivators were fussy about their diets, and were especially concerned with the quality of the food.

Strictly speaking, Egg-Fried Rice would be considered junk food as well. However, if Xiao Xiaolong's breakthrough was because of a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, and if it was not a coincidence, then there must be something wrong with the Egg-Fried Rice.

And it was unlikely to be a coincidence, since Xiao Xiaolong had been stuck as a second grade Battle-Master for a long time. To the point where it was impossible to be a coincidence. It was far more probable that the Egg-Fried Rice had something to do with his breakthrough.

That was what Xiao Yanyu was curious about, could a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice really be that miraculous?

"Oh my! If that isn't our young master Xiao? Where are you planning to recite poetry today?"

Just when the Xiao siblings were deep in their thoughts, a jarring voice interrupted them.

Xiao Xiaolong's beautiful face darkened and he turned towards the frivolous man at a distance. It was an ugly-looking man in colorful long robes, carrying a paper fan.

That person was the only son of the empire's Finance Minister...
Sun Qixiang!

He was infamously known as a playboy within the imperial city.

"Sun Qixiang! I have no time for you today, get out of my way!"
Even though Xiao Xiaolong looked like a sissy, he was quite capable of giving off a powerful aura when angry.

However, Sun Qixiang was not afraid of him. He shrugged his shoulders while he impudently stared at the veil-wearing women next to Xiao Xiaolong. Suddenly, his eyes widened in surprise!

"Oh my! I can't believe it! It's actually Miss Yanyu! It's a pleasure to meet you."

Sun Qixiang had realized the identity of Xiao Yanyu and immediately lost his composure. As a playboy, he would not miss the chance to harass his dream goddess.

"Get out of the way," Xiao Yanyu said faintly, she did not want to waste any words with him.

Sun Qixiang shrugged his shoulders. He wanted to strike up a conversation but his blood quickly turned cold when he met Xiao Yanyu's eyes. He was quickly reminded of Xiao Yanyu's terrifying strength.

After tens of thousands of years of development, the cultivation system on Qianlong Continent had a strict grading system.

On Qianlong Continent, every person was a cultivator. From an elderly person to a five-year-old child, cultivation was present in every household. However, with the differences in talents, the level of results were different as well.

There were nine different grades: first grade Warrior, second grade Battle-Master, third grade Battle-Maniac, fourth grade Battle-Spirit, fifth grade Battle-King, sixth grade Battle-Emperor, seventh grade Battle-Saint, eighth grade War-God, ninth grade Supreme-Being.

There was also a tenth grade as well, but that was not something an ordinary person would know.

Known as a female prodigy in the imperial city, Xiao Yanyu was a cultivation genius. Even though she was not even eighteen years old, she was already a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. Compared to her younger brother, Xiao Xiaolong, she was far more powerful.

Even the Great General Xiao Meng, had often exclaimed that it would have been great if Xiao Yanyu were a male.

Sun Qixiang was only a playboy. Even though he was in his twenties, he was only a third grade Battle-Maniac. But since he was a third grade Battle-Maniac after all, he was not afraid of Xiao Xiaolong. However, when faced with the fourth grade Battle-Spirit Xiao Yanyu, it was a whole different matter.

Xiao Xiaolong coldly snorted and followed after Xiao Yanyu, who had already left. The two of them quickly disappeared within the crowd.

Sun Qixiang scratched his cheeks and his eyes narrowed. He turned to one of his underling and whispered something to him. The underling quickly ran off while Sun Qixiang followed after the Xiao siblings with a sinister smile.

.....

After sleeping until he woke up naturally, the depressed Bu Fang took his time with opening up the restaurant.

The big black dog was still lying at the entrance. It glanced up at Bu Fang when he opened the front door, then it went back to sleep.

"Within the next seven days, I need to sell a hundred portions of Egg-Fried Rice and ten portions of Stir-Fried Vegetables or Dry-Mixed Noodles... System, do you really think that it's possible for a small restaurant in such a deserted place to achieve such miraculous results?" Bu Fang placed a chair by the entrance and curled himself up on it. In his mind, he was arguing with the system.

"Young man! You are someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, you must have faith in your cooking! You must believe you can conquer the world!" The system solemnly encouraged Bu Fang once more.

Bu Fang rolled his eyes. He thought, "I rather comfortably get a sunbath than conquer the world."

Bu Fang was feeling sleepy again as he lay in the sun, even though he had just woken up.

"Shop owner! I am here again! I am already in love with your Egg-Fried Rice!"

Bu Fang's eyes were only closed for a moment when a shout woke him up. He expressionlessly looked up and saw the sissy who ate Egg-Fried Rice the day before.

"Huh?" There was someone next to him, even though she was wearing a veil, Bu Fang immediately knew she was a woman! "What a nice chest and ass... She has a great figure!"

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows as she appraised the little restaurant that Xiao Xiaolong brought her to. She thought, "Can such a remote restaurant really make that miraculous Egg-Fried Rice?"

"Are you the owner of this restaurant?" Xiao Yanyu asked.

Her voice was beautiful, it was pleasing to the ear.

"That's right." Bu Fang calmly nodded.

Xiao Yanyu entered the store without saying anything further. The interior was very clean. When she ran her finger over a table, there was not even a speck of dust. She was also quite pleased with the store's ambience.

Even though the store was small and in a remote location, the decorations were well done, the ambience was good and the place was clean.

After Xiao Yanyu finished her appraisal of her surroundings, her eyes landed on the menu in the middle of the store. Immediately, she raised her eyebrows and her eyes flashed with incredulity.

"So what Xiaolong said was true about a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... costing a crystal, eh? The improved version of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals?! Is this guy an idiot?"

"Shop owner, I don't think I saw this improved Egg-Fried Rice yesterday? Why is it suddenly here today?" Xiao Xiaolong was also surprised with the appearance of the new Egg-Fried Rice that was being sold for ten crystals.

"Oh, I forgot to write it yesterday. However, keep in mind that you need to be a third grade Battle-Maniac to order this dish. Otherwise, you are not qualified," Bu Fang yawned and expressionlessly replied.

"There's even a requirement in order to eat it?" Xiao Yanyu immediately became interested, she was suddenly very curious

about this improved Egg-Fried Rice.

"Xiaolong, how many crystals did you bring?" Xiao Yanyu turned towards Xiao Xiaolong and asked.

Xiao Xiaolong dazedly replied, "Ten crystals."

"Hmm, very good." Xiao Yanyu nodded contentedly. She waved her hand and a sachet with a peony sewn on it appeared in her hand.

"Shop owner, give me a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice," Xiao Yanyu calmly said.

"Alright, please wait." When Xiao Yanyu actually ordered the improved Egg-Fried Rice, Bu Fang was delighted but did not let it show on his face. He wanted to maintain a cool attitude of a chef in front of a beautiful woman.

Xiao Xiaolong's face had already turned pale from anguish and was grudgingly looking at Xiao Yanyu.

Bu Fang turned around and was about to enter the kitchen when suddenly, a tsk-tsk sound coming from the entrance made him stop.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk! For the number one female prodigy in the Light Wind Empire to actually come to such a pathetic little restaurant to eat a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice? Oh my, how funny is that!"

Sun Qixiang shrugged his shoulders and shook his head as he entered the little store.

"Miss Yanyu, do you like eating Egg-Fried Rice? Okay! I will treat you! Shop owner, give me ten bowls of Egg-Fried Rice first! I will order more if that's not enough!"

Chapter 7: The Rules Of The Small Restaurant

Shop owner, give me ten bowls of Egg-Fried Rice first!

If these words were spoken in an ordinary little restaurant, the shop owner would probably be really happy. However, in Bu Fang's store, Bu Fang was not happy about it.

Bu Fang was going to enter the kitchen but he stopped. He turned around, looked towards Sun Qixiang who was in a colorful robes and solemnly said, "Sir, our store only sells a portion of Egg-Fried Rice to each customer per day. You can order Stir-Fried Vegetables or Dry-Mixed Noodles... Oh, you can order the improved version of Egg-Fried Rice as well."

Sun Qixiang was surprised, he did not think that he would be rejected. He looked towards Bu Fang as if he was staring at an idiot, and while pointing his paper fan towards him he said with a grin, "Do you not know who I am?"

He was one of the three famous playboys in the imperial city, Sun Qixiang. There was not anyone who did not know him! For an owner of a little restaurant to reject him, he was seeking death!

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows and carefully looked at Sun Qixiang. He had slender eyes, pouty lips and monkey-like cheeks. Even though he was ugly to the point where he could be mistaken for someone from a different species... Bu Fang truly did not recognise him.

"I don't recognise you. However, these are the rules of our store, you can leave if you're not eating," Bu Fang simply said.

"Oh my! How interesting, I enjoy breaking the rules the most! If you don't give me ten bowls of Egg-Fried Rice, I will smash your store up! How dare a tiny little store like this talk about rules with me!" Sun Qixiang laughed. He thought it was interesting that someone in the imperial city actually did not know him.

Xiao Yanyu could no longer stand by and do nothing. She did not think that Sun Qixiang would actually follow them to this store. If the store was destroyed, the blame would be on her.

"Sun Qixiang, you'd better watch it! If you're here to eat, then eat properly. Do you really want me to throw you out?!" There was a slight coldness in Xiao Yanyu's voice.

Xiao Xiaolong was already staring coldly at Sun Qixiang.

Bu Fang remained expressionless after hearing Sun Qixiang's threat.

He rubbed his palms together and faintly glanced at Sun Qixiang, he said, "Smash my store up? I don't think you're capable of that. If you're ordering something, then hurry up. The menu is on the wall. If you continue to waste my time, I am permanently blacklisting you."

Xiao Yanyu went into a daze, even Xiao Xiaolong was stunned. They could not understand the reason why Bu Fang was not afraid of Sun Qixiang. Sun Qixiang had a lot of power within the imperial city, even the number one restaurant, Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, would not dare to offend him. What emboldened Bu Fang to go against him?

Sun Qixiang angrily smiled. For a tiny little restaurant owner like that to be so arrogant in front of him, he learnt something new that day.

"Brat, you have guts. The last person who spoke to me this way became fish food." Sun Qixiang coldly smiled and looked towards the menu. On the menu, there were four dishes.

He could have immediately ordered his men to smash the store up, but not with Xiao Yanyu around. Since that was the case, he wanted to see what this little store was capable of.

"Haha, this truly is a small restaurant. With only four dishes, one of them is repeated as well... Are you telling me you can cook up a feast with Egg-Fried Rice?" Sun Qixiang only looked at the name of the dishes and completely ignored the prices.

Price? Sun Qixiang had more than enough money!

"What are you ordering?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

"Give me every single dish on the menu." Sun Qixiang sat down at

a table. He wanted to know what exactly the little restaurant had that could attract the number one beauty in the imperial city.

Sun Qixiang appraised the little restaurant. He had to admit that the decoration was quite unique, it felt cozy.

"Every single dish? Alright, that's eleven crystals and two hundred gold coins in total."

Bu Fang smirked and indifferently reported the price.

Sun Qixiang was sitting on a chair with his leg crossed over his knee. When he heard the price that Bu Fang reported, his expression froze and he looked at Bu Fang as if he was an idiot.

"Do you think I am stupid? It's just two bowls of Egg-Fried Rice, a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables and a plate of Dry-Mixed Noodles, and you're telling me that it's eleven crystals and two hundred gold coins? If you're looking to rip someone off, at least choose your victims well, how dare you try to scam me?!"

Sun Qixiang practically shouted those words out. Even though he was well-to-do, he was not a brainless idiot.

"Are you blind? The price is written on the menu, get lost if you're not ordering!" Bu Fang's patience had already completely disappeared, he did not have much leniency towards customers. As someone who aimed to become the God of Cooking, he had his own pride.

"Don't pretend to be rich if you have no money."

When Xiao Xiaolong saw Sun Qixiang's reaction, he almost laughed out loud. He had the same expression as Sun Qixiang when he first saw the prices of the dishes. Now that he saw the same expression on other people, he felt an inexplicable kind of pleasure.

"No money? What a joke! I can smash you to death just by using money! Cut the crap! Serve the dishes first! I will definitely pay!" Sun Qixiang glanced at Xiao Xiaolong disdainfully, opened his paper fan and waved it while he said.

His eyes were rotating as if something was on his mind.

Bu Fang did not mind. Since Sun Qixiang had already ordered, he would just go ahead and cook the dish. Anyone who entered the store was a customer, he was not afraid that they would create trouble. That was because the store was modified by the system, any attempts to create trouble would only end badly.

"Please wait a moment."

Without saying anything further, Bu Fang entered the kitchen.

"Yanyu, why would a beautiful woman like you come to such a place to eat some stupid Egg-Fried Rice!" While they waited for their dishes to arrive, Sun Qixiang was bored. He turned towards

the dignified Xiao Yanyu who was sitting nearby and tried to strike up a conversation.

However, Xiao Yanyu sat there like a statue and simply ignored him.

Sun Qixiang was given the cold shoulder by Xiao Yanyu but he didn't think much of it. He was used to it when harassing beautiful women. And so, he continued to appraise the store with eyes filled with aversion.

When Sun Qixiang saw the prices on the menu once more, his eyes flashed with ridicule.

Xiao Xiaolong sat on one side in low spirits while he grudgingly looked at Xiao Yanyu. All of his crystals were taken away by his bully of a sister and he only had gold coins on him, so he could only order a portion of Dry-Mixed Noodles.

It may not be Egg-Fried Rice, but since it was from the same store, it should be extraordinary as well. After all... It was being sold for a hundred gold coins.

Everyone within the small store held their own thoughts.

Suddenly, a burst of fragrance drifted out from the kitchen, it was like a floating piece of silk as it caressed their faces.

Xiao Xiaolong was engrossed in the smell. "Oh! It's this smell, this

intoxicating and nostalgic smell!"

Xiao Yanyu's bright eyes were filled with surprise as well. "It's truly... fragrant!"

Sun Qixiang sniffed and his eyes suddenly lit up. "It looks like this little store has some capabilities after all! This fragrance is... wonderful!"

With three pairs of eyes staring at him, Bu Fang leisurely walked out of the kitchen.

"Here's your improved Egg-Fried Rice, enjoy your meal." Bu Fang was holding a blue and white porcelain bowl in his hand, rich fragrance was drifting up from the bowl while forming a mist above it, that obscured the view of the dish.

When the blue and white porcelain bowl was placed in front of Xiao Yanyu, the rich fragrance immediately rushed towards her, like an aromatic bomb had exploded.

The smell immediately flowed into Xiao Yanyu's nostrils like a river meeting the sea. The light breeze lifted up her pink veil and exposed her beautiful face.

Gururu.

Xiao Yanyu gulped and a small rumble came from her stomach. Her beautiful face flushed red in embarrassment.

For a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice to cause a fourth grade Battle-Spirit to feel hunger... It was a miracle!

When the mist obscuring the dish finally dissipated, a burst of golden rays suddenly emerged from the bowl.

Sun Qixiang and Xiao Xiaolong were shocked!

Even Xiao Yanyu covered her mouth and gasped in surprise.

Chapter 8: Do Not Offend The Future God Of Cooking

Egg-Fried Rice that glowed!

Xiao Yanyu's pupils slowly widened and they were filled with incredulity. When Xiao Xiaolong told her about it, she did not believe him. Now that she had seen it, it still felt unreal.

Rich fragrance continuously rushed into Xiao Yanyu's nasal cavity, that smell was like a lover's caress causing her entire body to relax. Her mind was completely empty of distractions, there was only one thing in her mind: Eat it!

Xiao Yanyu was still a goddess of Light Wind Empire after all, she needed to maintain her image even if she was in front of gourmet food. She gently lifted up her veil and exposed her rosy and ample lips.

Using the blue and white porcelain spoon to scoop up a spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice; the egg fluid, which was not fully cooked, stretched as the spoon was lifted up. It was like a shining golden thread. Warm air rose from the blue and white porcelain spoon and a rich fragrance accompanied it.

Xiao Yanyu's skin, that was as fair as beancurd, turned red from the warm air.

"Elder sister, how is the taste of this improved Egg-Fried Rice?!"

As Xiao Xiaolong breathed in the smell of the Egg-Fried Rice, he could not help but ask as he watched the spoon enter his sister's mouth.

The blue and white porcelain spoon lightly brushed against Xiao Yanyu's teeth and every single rice grain fell into her mouth. Xiao Yanyu narrowed her eyes as a burst of flavour rushed straight into her brain, as if a flavour bomb had exploded in her mouth.

Her taste buds were completely enveloped and conquered by the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Oh... It's... delicious!"

Xiao Yanyu gave an euphoric expression and she moaned. After that, she completely ignored the others and started to stuff spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice into her mouth. Her image was completely destroyed within seconds.

She had never eaten an Egg-Fried Rice that tasted so good. As a fourth-grade Battle-Spirit, she almost did not need to consume food. For someone like her to have their appetite stimulated by a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, it was almost unbelievable. As Xiao Xiaolong had said, it was a miraculous bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!

Gururu!

When Xiao Xiaolong saw Xiao Yanyu devouring her food without caring about her image, he did not laugh at her. He was looking at

her enviously instead, there was even a rumbling sound coming from his stomach.

Sun Qixiang was speechless as he watched his dream goddess devouring her food, he could not understand her actions at all.

"It's just a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... Is there a need to be so desperate?!"

Even though this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice smells... really good, you're still a goddess. There's no need for you to throw away your image for a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!"

"Shop owner! Where is my Egg-Fried Rice! Hurry up and serve it! Hurry!"

Even though Sun Qixiang was thinking that, he was even more curious about the Egg-Fried Rice. He closed the paper fan in his hand and glanced sideways. He shouted at Bu Fang who seemed to be smiling while watching Xiao Yanyu eat.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows and indifferently glanced at Sun Qixiang. He did not say anything, but instead turned around and entered the kitchen.

"Hurry up! If I am not eating your Egg-Fried Rice by the time three minutes have passed, I will smash up this tiny little store!" Sun Qixiang arrogantly said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly entered the kitchen and took out a bag of flour from the refrigerator.

Was he going to cook Egg-Fried Rice? Wrong... Sun Qixiang actually dared to threaten him, a chef. Since that was the case, then he would have to go on an empty stomach for a while. He would understand soon enough, the fate of someone who offends a chef, especially a petty minded one.

Dry-Mixed Noodles was actually a simple dish. It was just pulled noodles mixed with seasoning.

However, the Dry-Mixed Noodles that Bu Fang used was handmade. With a special kneading technique used to create the noodles, the taste was definitely extraordinary.

As Bu Fang had already practiced this countless times, making a bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles from dough would only need around ten minutes. His kneading skills were pleasing to the eyes, it was like his hands had disappeared and afterimages were kneading the dough.

After the kneading was done, he had to pull the noodles apart using moderate strength. Then he sprinkled some flour on the thin noodles and soaked them in hot water once.

The water used to cook the noodles was not ordinary either. It was clear and translucent and did not contain any impurities. The steam coming from it even had a little sweet smell in it.

While the noodles were being soaked, Bu Fang was preparing the seasoning. He placed a strict proportion of salt, soy sauce and monosodium glutamate into a blue and white porcelain bowl and poured a little hot water in it. Then he removed the noodles from the hot water and poured them into the bowl. Using bamboo chopsticks, he stirred the bowl which caused the color of the soy sauce to completely seep into the crystal clear noodles.

A bowl of steaming Dry-Mixed Noodles was complete.

There was no soup, egg or vegetables. It was purely a bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles.

Bu Fang carried the bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles out of the kitchen. The fragrance was not as strong as when he carried out the Egg-Fried Rice, but the color of the Dry-Mixed Noodles was appealing.

When Sun Qixiang saw Bu Fang walking out of the kitchen with a blue and white porcelain bowl, he thought his Egg-Fried Rice was here and excitedly went up to receive it.

"This is the sissy's Dry-Mixed Noodles," Bu Fang expressionlessly moved aside and simply said.

Sun Qixiang's expression froze and he angrily stared at Bu Fang with narrowed eyes. "Didn't I tell you to cook Egg-Fried Rice?! Who told you to cook Dry-Mixed Noodles! Do you want me to close down this business?!"

Bu Fang completely ignored Sun Qixiang, he set down the Dry-Mixed Noodles in front of Xiao Xiaolong and calmly said, "Here's your Dry-Mixed Noodles, enjoy your meal."

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes lit up. He was ravenous after being enticed by the Egg-Fried Rice, the smell was simply too tantalizing. He even overlooked the fact that Bu Fang called him a sissy.

Even though the Dry-Mixed Noodles was not the Egg-Fried Rice, it was better than having nothing to eat! Although the smell was not as rich as the other dish, there was still a burst of fragrance circulating within the nasal cavities if you breathed in deeply.

How could a bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles being sold for a hundred gold coins be ordinary!

Xiao Xiaolong picked up a strand of noodle with his chopsticks and impatiently sucked it into his mouth.

Slurp!

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes widened in surprise. The noodle immediately slid into his mouth as if it had come alive. The elasticity was ample, it even bounced around his mouth after he bite it off. The feeling as it bounced around gave him an unusual enjoyment, it felt as if multiple tiny hands were lightly scratching his mouth.

Oh...

With his mouth stuffed with noodles, Xiao Xiaolong's eyes narrowed into a slit. He shook his head with a face full of enjoyment.

Xiao Xiaolong's expression was reflected in Sun Qixiang's eyes. He could no longer suppress his curiosity, he could not wait any further.

"Hurry up and get back into the kitchen! I want to immediately taste the Egg-Fried Rice and Dry-Mixed Noodles!"

Sun Qixiang coldly stared at Bu Fang.

"You seemed to have forgotten who you're speaking to? Also, stop rushing me. If I hear another word, I am blacklisting you."

Bu Fang's eyebrows knitted together, he was getting more dissatisfied. He thought, "This guy is looking for trouble."

"You're very cocky, I may just tear down your store!" Sun Qixiang said threateningly, while poking Bu Fang's chest with his paper fan.

Bu Fang responded with a smile. Since he seldom smiled, his smile looked stiff.

He did not say anything further and returned to the kitchen.

After approximately thirty minutes, Bu Fang leisurely came back.

Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu had already finished their meals, but they did not leave. They still had to pay their bills, and more importantly, to take a look at the Stir-Fried Vegetables.

They had already witnessed Egg-Fried Rice and Dry-Mixed Noodles, there was only Stir-Fried Vegetables to go.

Based on the standards of the other dishes, Stir-Fried Vegetables would surely be out of the ordinary as well.

When the famished Sun Qixiang finally saw his food being carried out of the kitchen, he was so excited that he quickly came forward and snatched the tray away from Bu Fang.

There were four dishes on the tray. There were two bowls of Egg-Fried Rice that were so fragrant that the smell enveloped the entire restaurant. There was also another bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles with an enticing color, and also... A fresh piece of... leaf?!

Since Sun Qixiang ordered all of the dishes, Bu Fang cooked all of them at once.

It seemed that the piece of leaf might be the legendary... Stir-Fried Vegetables.

"Are you an idiot? Why didn't you serve me dish by dish? Are you deliberately trying to starve me?!" Sun Qixiang transfixedly breathed in the smell of the Egg-Fried Rice, then turned towards Bu Fang and scolded him.

Bu Fang could not be bothered to answer him. What was Sun Qixiang expecting after offending a chef? He should be thankful that he did not have to wait an additional hour or two.

So, why would Bu Fang serve the dishes on time? It was not because he was afraid of Sun Qixiang. There was a reason for it...

"System, are you sure that thing you gave me will work?"

"[Abyssal Chilli Sauce], the chilli used is selectively chosen from the extremely spicy Facing Heaven Pepper that grows in the abyss. It is extremely intense after experiencing the daily essence energy respiration of the abyssal devils. A single drop will cause a person to feel as if their entire body is on fire. A spoonful will cause a person to experience hallucinations. A jar is deadly."

The system solemnly explained the chilli sauce that Bu Fang added into the Egg-Fried Rice.

Chapter 9: The Robotic Assistant Of Fang

Fang's Little Store

That was right! Bu Fang was a petty-minded person!

He was not a gentleman in the first place. Even though his ambition was to become the God of Cooking, it did not change the fact that he was just an ordinary person from Earth.

"Please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang expressionlessly said to Sun Qixiang, who was eagerly staring at the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Get lost! Don't bother me while I am eating!" Sun Qixiang impatiently waved Bu Fang away.

Bu Fang pursed his lips and thought, "Let's see if you're still cocky after you have the first bite."

Sun Qixiang was no longer paying any attention to Bu Fang and was about to begin his meal. Suddenly, he thought of something and turned towards Xiao Yanyu. By then, she had already put on her veil and was once again dignified and graceful. He said to her, "I ordered a lot of dishes, do you want to eat with me?"

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows and unexpectedly hesitated as she recalled the delicious taste of the Egg-Fried Rice. She wanted to order another serving but she did not have enough money on her and the rules of the store only allowed a serving per customer.

It seemed like a pretty good choice if someone were to treat her to a meal.

However, before Xiao Yanyu could reply, Bu Fang who was sitting nearby opened his mouth and said, "Only the customer that ordered the Egg-Fried Rice can eat it. If someone else eats it, then it will be viewed as a violation of our rules and the customer will be blacklisted."

"What?! Do you think I would be scared? If I want to eat, who cares about your rules! I will get someone to beat you up until you're half dead, then make you cook! What do you think a tiny little store like this can do to me?!"

Sun Qixiang angrily stared at Bu Fang. He was about to share a meal with the beautiful Xiao Yanyu if it was not for his interruption!

"Oh, there's one more thing that I forgot to add. Not only will you be blacklisted, if she really eats it, she will be blacklisted as well. You may not understand the seriousness of the blacklist, but... you're welcome to try," Bu Fang unhurriedly said.

After Bu Fang finished speaking, Xiao Yanyu immediately dismissed any thoughts of wanting to eat Sun Qixiang's Egg-Fried Rice.

Sun Qixiang coldly snorted. He was not even bothered in the slightest by Bu Fang's threat. Why would a playboy like him be afraid of the chef of a little store? So what if he was blacklisted? It

was just a joke to him.

Sun Qixiang did not say anything else. When he looked towards the savory dishes in front of him, his appetite suddenly surged. The Egg-Fried Rice that was radiating golden light was blinding to his eyes.

As he scooped up the Egg-Fried Rice with the blue and white porcelain spoon, the rich fragrance coming from it, as if an aromatic bomb had exploded and rushed into his nasal cavities. He was captivated by it.

He unhesitantly shoved the spoon into his mouth. The pearl-like rice rolled between his teeth and his tongue, it was like a massage treatment taking place in his mouth.

"Delicious!"

Sun Qixiang's eyes lit up as he shoved spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth.

Bu Fang's expressionless face finally broke into a smile as he watched Sun Qixiang gobble down the food.

Xiao Yanyu was staring at Sun Qixiang's Egg-Fried Rice when she detected a slight chill coming from Bu Fang's body. When she looked towards him in curiosity, she witnessed the stiff smile on his face.

"Eh? Hmm? He's... He's actually smiling?"

Xiao Yanyu was slightly surprised. Ever since she entered the store, the impression that Bu Fang gave her was that of a cold and haughty chef. It was hard to imagine him smiling.

"Ah!!!"

Just when Xiao Yanyu was focusing her attention on Bu Fang, Sun Qixiang who was enjoying his meal suddenly stopped eating and his eyes widened.

Within seconds, his face turned from white to red, then red to purple!

With a scream, Sun Qixiang opened his mouth and vomited out rice grains. He was hopping on the spot with his hands around his neck and his tongue hanging out of his mouth.

"Hot... Hot! It's too hot!"

Tears rolled down Sun Qixiang's face. He felt as if his entire body was warping and the world was not real.

How could such a terrifying level of spiciness exist in this world?

"Water! I need to find water!" Sun Qixiang ran around the little store to find water. The burning sensation in his mouth made him

feel as if his entire mouth was starting to go numb and filled his face with tears.

Bu Fang was sitting on a chair while he disinterestedly watched Sun Qixiang run around.

Suddenly, Sun Qixiang charged towards the kitchen. Since he could not find any water in the area, he wanted to enter the kitchen to find water.

Just when Sun Qixiang was about to enter the kitchen, a mechanical arm appeared out of nowhere and threw him out.

"The kitchen is a restricted area, no entry to unauthorised personnel."

Bu Fang's robotic assistant was standing at the kitchen entrance and spoke in a mechanical voice.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong were speechless as they watched the scene unfold.

Xiao Yanyu suddenly turned to look at Bu Fang. She thought, "Did he do this? Is this his way of taking revenge? That's scary... How could he add such a terrifying chilli into gourmet food, that's totally inhumane!"

"Young master... Here's water!"

Sun Qixiang's underling was very perceptive. When he saw Sun Qixiang jumping for water, he already ran out to find water and brought a water bag back.

Gulp gulp!

Sun Qixiang finished the entire water bag in one go before the spicy feeling in his mouth was gone. It was fortunate for him that he did not eat that much, otherwise it would have lasted much longer.

"You're seeking death! How dare you tamper with my food!" Sun Qixiang furiously threw the empty water bag on the floor.

Bu Fang expressionlessly sat on the chair and pointed at the dish, "If you don't finish the food, that will be considered food wastage and you'll be blacklisted."

"Blacklist?! Don't talk to me about your stupid blacklist! I am shutting down your store today!" Sun Qixiang furiously gritted his teeth and pointed at Bu Fang with his paper fan.

"I want you to smash this store up!!"

Sun Qixiang said to his underling behind him.

The underling immediately perked up, smashing stores was his

favorite thing to do. He picked up a chair in an experienced manner and was about to swing it towards a table. However, before he could bring the chair down, he felt his arm being crushed.

The underling screamed out in pain. A robot had appeared behind the underling, it reached out and easily crushed the underling's arm.

"Troublemaker! You've been blacklisted and hereby prohibited from stepping into Fang Fang's Little Store." A mechanical voice solemnly declared.

That underling was lifted up by the robot and gently thrown out of the store. He landed face first into the mud, wailing in pain.

"How dare you retaliate?! I can easily summon a hundred men within minutes to tear down this store!"

Sun Qixiang trembled in anger, he could not believe that a commoner would dare to go against him within the imperial city.

"Whitey, strip him and throw him outside. He should be punished for wasting food." Bu Fang stood up, yawned and simply said to the robot, Whitey. Then, he muttered to himself, "The opening hours is almost over, it's time to close up for the day."

"How dare you ignore me? I am a third grade Battle-Maniac, killing you is no different from crushing an ant!" Sun Qixiang

angrily roared. His colorful robes started to flutter and glowing lights floated around his body.

“Bang!”

The robot, Whitey, slapped Sun Qixiang on the head, knocking him down on the floor and stunning him. The true energy that he gathered within his body immediately dissipated.

After that, the sound of cloth being torn resounded around the little store!

"Damn it! Are you seriously striping me?! Do you know who I am?! I am..."

"Bang!" Whitey's eyes flashed and it slapped Sun Qixiang on the head once more, sending him into a daze.

Sun Qixiang was stripped naked except for his underwear and everything valuable on him was taken away. He was gently thrown out in a beautiful arc and landed at the entrance of the store.

Sun Qixiang was in a daze while he sat there shivering from the cold wind.

Then he suddenly heard footsteps and a pair of golden wyrm-scaled shoes appeared in the corner of his eyes...

Zhao Ruge looked at the almost naked Sun Qixiang who was only wearing a loincloth and made a tsk-tsk sound.

"How did the great Sun Qixiang end up in such an embarrassing state just by eating a meal?"

Chapter 10: The Principle That Cannot Be Swayed By Money

Zhao Ruge was a good-looking young man with long black hair fixed in place with a green hairpin. He wore a white robe, a pair of worm-scaled shoes and a belt inlaid with jade. He looked noble and graceful.

"Zhao Ruge?!"

Sun Qixiang miserably stood up with his hands covering his private parts and sullenly looked at the handsome man in front of him.

"I didn't know that young master Sun has such hobbies, today has been an eye-opener for me." Zhao Ruge chuckled as his eyes ran over Sun Qixiang's body and said with a weird expression on his face.

Sun Qixiang's face turned bright red. He looked towards his underling who was behind Zhao Ruge, the one he sent to look for Zhao Ruge.

After tearing off the clothing on his underling and putting it on, Sun Qixiang's complexion slightly improved. He did not pay any attention to Zhao Ruge but turned towards the store and furiously shouted, "If I don't smash up your store by tomorrow, my surname isn't Sun! I'll be back!"

After Sun Qixiang finished shouting, he glanced towards Zhao Ruge and said, "Young master Zhao, your dream goddess is inside the little restaurant right now. Here's a friendly reminder, there's something strange with this restaurant. The beautiful Xiao Yanyu seems to be under someone's spell."

Without even looking at Zhao Ruge's reaction, Sun Qixiang bitterly swaggered away.

"Under someone's spell?" The corner of Zhao Ruge's mouth slightly curled up and a meaningful smile appeared on his handsome face. He looked towards the simple and small restaurant in the alleyway.

For a little restaurant set up in such a remote place to have customers, especially ones with high status like the children of the Great General Xiao Meng, Zhao Ruge would not believe that there was nothing strange going on.

The wary Zhao Ruge started to walk towards the restaurant, he wanted to see what kind of a magical place it was.

However, before he reached the entrance, he saw the Xiao siblings walking out with strange expressions on their faces.

Xiao Yanyu was agitated at the moment. It was not because Bu Fang threw Sun Qixiang out of the store, but because of the Egg-Fried Rice. After she ate the improved Egg-Fried Rice, she found that the true energy in her body was being stimulated and the amount had increased by a lot. Even though it had not reached the

point where she would advance, the level of increase was still considerable.

She was amazed that a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice could actually increase a person's cultivation level and its effect was equivalent to that of fourth grade elixirs. There was also the fact that compared to elixirs, the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice was simply incredible.

It was also no wonder that a person would need to be at least a third grade Battle-Maniac before they could eat the improved Egg-Fried Rice. The increase in true energy was more than the total true energy a second grade Battle-Master had. If a second grade Battle-Master were to eat it, not only would they not be able to advance, their bodies would explode from the sudden increase in true energy.

"Yanyu, what's wrong?" When Zhao Ruge saw Xiao Yanyu, a glimmer of gentleness appeared in his eyes. He took a step forward and softly asked.

Xiao Yanyu was overjoyed with the increase in her cultivation level and completely ignored Zhao Ruge, while Xiao Xiaolong warily stared at Zhao Ruge. He could not understand the reason for Zhao Ruge to appear at that place... Then he thought of something, "Could it be that it was that brat Sun Qixiang who informed him?"

As the Xiao siblings walked away without paying any attention to Zhao Ruge, he got even more curious. He thought, "For Yanyu to have that kind of expression, what exactly happened here?"

"Thank you, please come again." After sending off the bewildered Xiao siblings, Bu Fang yawned and was getting ready to close up for the day.

The robot, Whitey, returned to the kitchen to continue its watch.

Before Bu Fang could close up the shop, a handsome young man appeared in front of him.

"Shop owner, don't be so quick to close up. I would like to try out your dishes."

The handsome Zhao Ruge elegantly stood at the entrance with a smile on his face while he looked at Bu Fang. A wind blew past and caused his robes to flutter.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at Zhao Ruge, while the latter looked at him with a smile.

"Oh, it's time for the store to close up, please come back tomorrow."

Bu Fang simply said and continued to close up.

The expression on Zhao Ruge's face froze, "Did the shop owner just refused a customer? How does a little store like this even dare to refuse a customer?"

"Opening hours are determined by humans... They can be changed, I am willing to pay more." Zhao Ruge thought for a while and spoke up once more.

"No way," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

Zhao Ruge knitted his eyebrows and said, "How about two times the original price?"

Bu Fang thought for a while but still refused, "No way."

Zhao Ruge was completely stunned. He could not believe that a little store like this would refuse a customer. However, he was not about to give up!

"I will pay three times the original price!"

"No way."

"How about four times the original price?!"

"No... No way."

"Five times!" Zhao Ruge endured the impulse to kick Bu Fang's expressionless face and coldly said.

"Five times?!" Bu Fang was bleeding in his heart. If it was five times the original price, a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice would be fifty crystals and a bowl of normal Egg-Fried Rice would be five crystals... He felt as if countless amounts of money were floating in front of his eyes.

"As someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, you must have your own set of rules. You must maintain your principles and not be swayed by money! Do not bend over backwards for money!"

Just when Bu Fang was struggling internally and was about to agree with Zhao Ruge's offer, the system's timely intervention woke Bu Fang up.

Zhao Ruge was extremely pleased. From the hesitation on Bu Fang's face, Zhao Ruge knew that Bu Fang was about to agree.

He thought, "How dare the owner of a little restaurant talk about principles with me, there's no principle that doesn't break under a pile of money! If it doesn't work, then I will offer two big piles!"

Bu Fang took in a deep breath, the expression on his face became even gloomier and uglier. He glanced at the triumphant-looking Zhao Ruge, then...

"Bang!"

The door tightly closed and the loud noise shocked Zhao Ruge.

"What happened? Shop owner, are you going to open the door? Are you still open for business?" What happened to his concession, what happened to his compromise? Why did he suddenly change his mind!

Even with Zhao Ruge's self-control, he was still furious. Even the number one restaurant, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, did not have as many rules as this little store. He could not believe that a little restaurant in such a remote location would talk about principles with him!

"The opening hours is finished for today. If you want to eat, come back tomorrow."

The voice of Bu Fang came from behind the tightly closed door, followed by a yawn. Then, it became silent.

After that, no matter how many times Zhao Ruge knocked, there was no response.

The big black dog lazily lying in front of the entrance glanced at Zhao Ruge, then continued with its sleep. The only thing that the dog did other than eating was sleeping. It was a dog living the life of a pig.

Zhao Ruge finally realised that he was rejected. He could not believe that a little restaurant in such a god-forsaken place would reject someone as handsome as him.

He felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his heart.

In his hands, the third grade Battle-Maniac Zhao Ruge gathered a lump of true energy. He was tempted to smash the store up.

However, after he thought for a while, he gave up.

"Fine! I will come back tomorrow and see what kind of a store would dare to reject me!"

Zhao Ruge was the son of the Minister of the Left. As someone with such a status, everyone in the imperial city had to show him some respect. However, he was unexpectedly humiliated in a little restaurant like this, it was like getting slapped in the face.

The livid Zhao Ruge dissipated the true energy he gathered in his hand, turned around and left.

The big black dog continued to lay there without moving, it glanced towards Zhao Ruge as he left and rolled its eyes...

Bu Fang returned to his room, he had already completely forgotten about Zhao Ruge.

He gave another big yawn, he had been feeling sleepy for the entire day.

As he lay on the bed, he called out the system monitor.

Host: Bu Fang

Gender: Male

Age: 20

True Energy Cultivation Level: First Grade (As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Unknown

Skills: None

Tools: None

God of Cooking overall rating: Beginner (A beginner that finally learned how to manipulate true energy and cook Egg-Fried Rice.)

System Level: One Star

A surprised expression suddenly appeared on Bu Fang's face.

"My true energy cultivation level is actually at first grade? Eh...
Are there actually levels for the system?"

Chapter 11: Why Are You Not Afraid Of Me When I Am So Awesome?

According to the grading system of the Hidden Dragon Continent, the first grade was the lowest cultivation level. This level of cultivation was incapable of any influence within the imperial city.

However, what Bu Fang was puzzled about was how he suddenly obtained true energy.

Was it because he completed the system mission? His first mission was to obtain his first customer, but the reward was only the improved version of Egg-Fried Rice and a fragment of the God of Cooking set. There was no mention of true energy.

"System, will I gain true energy and become stronger just by completing missions?" The baffled Bu Fang asked.

The system solemnly replied, "The host's true energy cultivation level is related to the amount of crystals earned. After a monetary transaction is completed, the crystals will be converted into cultivation level based on the conversion ratio. The host can monitor his cultivation level and conversion ratio in the character panel.

"The current system level is at one star and the crystal conversion ratio is at ten percent. When the system level reaches two stars, more functions will be unlocked: more furniture can be used and customers may bring their own ingredients.

"The host earned twenty two crystals today. According to the conversion ratio, two crystals worth of energy have been gained. The true energy level is equivalent to that of a first grade Warrior."

Bu Fang was speechless, he had no idea that crystals had such a purpose. However, after he gave it a thought, he realized it was natural. In the first place, crystals were a necessity to cultivators. They could increase their cultivation level by processing it. The conversion by the system was only a shortcut for Bu Fang.

"Eh... In that case, does that mean I can become stronger just by earning crystals?" An awkward smile slowly appeared on Bu Fang's face.

"In order to become a second grade Battle-Master, ten crystals are needed. Third grade Battle-Maniac needs a hundred crystals. Fourth grade Battle-Spirit needs a thousand crystals. Fifth grade Battle-King needs ten thousand crystals," The system announced.

Bu Fang was completely speechless.

"Fine, there's a long way for me to go."

"By the way, what did you mean by customers may bring their own ingredients?" Bu Fang curiously asked.

"The host can use the ingredients brought by the customers to create dishes and the price is determined by the rating of the dish

given by the system," The system solemnly explained.

"So that's what it was." Bu Fang's eyes slightly lit up. It was a rather considerate functionality and a method the system was using to develop his ability to earn crystals. Unfortunately, his current system level was still not enough. In this fantasy world, there were plenty of excellent ingredients for him to use. If customers were allowed to bring their own ingredients, he would surely earn a lot of crystals.

In order to increase his system level, he needed to complete the missions given by it. The latest mission: please make a profit of at least a hundred crystals and a thousand gold coins within a week.

Mission progress: 22/100, 100/100

Bu Fang sighed inwardly, knowing that it was another mission that was far from completion.

As an excellent chef, he needed to ensure that he had enough sleep. After Bu Fang exited the system panel, he slowly closed his eyes and went to sleep. The sound of even breathing could be heard after a while.

The next morning.

Bu Fang got up on time. After washing up, he began his daily

cooking practice. Once he finished practicing all of the dishes that he learned, Bu Fang opened the store while yawning.

The big black dog was still lying in front of the store. It was as if it had always been lying at the same position, without ever moving. Bu Fang was slightly astonished by it as well.

"Good morning, Blacky," Bu Fang expressionlessly greeted.

The big black dog rolled its eyes and ignored him.

Bu Fang was not embarrassed either. He walked back into the kitchen and placed the Egg-Fried Rice made during his practice into a bowl. When he returned, he stood in front of Blacky while carrying the bowl.

"It's time to eat, Blacky," Bu Fang said.

As the lazy Blacky smelled the fragrance from the bowl, it immediately became energetic. With its pink tongue hanging out, its eyes were filled with expectation as it stared at the bowl in Bu Fang's hands.

Bu Fang was furious as he thought, "This gluttonous dog completely changes its attitude when there's gourmet food, then it regresses the moment it finishes eating.

“What happened to the bond between men and dogs?

“Doesn’t he understand that it is very important to please me, the chef? He will only get a steady stream of gourmet food if I am pleased!”

There was nothing Bu Fang could do about this gluttonous dog either. After he placed the bowl in front of Blacky, it started to gobble down the food while shaking its tail.

Bu Fang pulled a chair over and curled up on it. He lay there comfortably while waiting for customers to show up.

It was another beautiful and simple day.

At that moment, a group of menacing people were flocking around the main street of the imperial city.

Sun Qixiang dressed in colorful clothes was leading the group. Being one of the three most famous playboys in the imperial city, everyone on the main street avoided him while fearfully looking in his direction.

Sun Qixiang was very satisfied with the way they looked at him, "That's right! That's how you should look at me! You should be afraid of me when I am so awesome!"

"Follow me! If I don't smash up that little restaurant by today, my surname isn't Sun!"

After getting stripped and thrown out of the restaurant the day before, Sun Qixiang had nightmares throughout the night and could not sleep properly. Which was why early in the morning he gathered all of the servants under his family's employment to get even with Bu Fang.

It was the first time that Sun Qixiang had to experience such an embarrassing situation, he would not be able to rest easy as long as Bu Fang was not dead.

That day, Xiao Yanyu was staying at home. After eating the improved Egg-Fried Rice the previous day, her true energy level increased and she had to go into seclusion. That was why only Xiao Xiaolong was heading toward the little restaurant.

However, just when he reached the main street, he saw Sun Qixiang bringing over a hundred men to thrash the restaurant.

"Oh my heavens! I still want to eat Egg-Fried Rice! What the hell are you doing!" Xiao Xiaolong was angry, where would he find Egg-Fried Rice that was delicious and would increase his cultivation level if the restaurant was gone?!

As the group of over a hundred men majestically went past the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and walked a few dozen meters more, the surroundings became silent.

The alleyway that was usually deserted became crowded with people that day.

Sun Qixiang's men were all holding sticks while coldly looking toward the little restaurant in the alleyway.

"Damn it! How dare a little restaurant in a god forsaken place bully our young master! It is practically begging to be smashed!"

At the restaurant's entrance, Bu Fang was comfortably curled up on the chair while squinting his eyes as the warm sunlight enveloped his lazy figure.

The big black dog was lying nearby with its tail shaking as it gobbled up the food within its food bowl.

"I've come to smash your store!" Sun Qixiang arrogantly pointed at Bu Fang with his paper fan and coldly shouted. He believed that Bu Fang would be afraid since he brought so many people.

If Bu Fang did not get down on his knees and beg for mercy, he would not spare him!

It was terribly quiet in the alleyway. After Sun Qixiang finished shouting, his expectation of Bu Fang begging for mercy did not come true. The latter remained curled up on his chair, basking in the sunlight.

All of the servants were staring at Sun Qixiang.

Sun Qixiang felt stupid and did not think that he would be ignored like this.

He was extremely furious and felt as if Bu Fang had just slapped him a few times in the face.

"Smash it! Smash everything you see! Tear down this little store! Damn it, I want this brat to know what happens to someone who offends me!"

Chapter 12: Troublemaker, You Will Be Stripped As An Example To Others

Xiao Xiaolong was worriedly standing at the entrance of the alleyway. He could not get through as there were too many people within the alleyway and there were many spectators as well.

Whether it was in another world or on Earth, there would always be onlookers. It was the natural behavior of humans. However, among the ones watching there were many that had no idea what was going on. They only gathered due to their herd mentality.

While Xiao Xiaolong was thinking about how to get past the crowd, he felt someone tapping on his shoulder and turned his head in surprise.

A handsome and imposing young man was looking at him. He was wearing an exquisite long robe and a hat woven from golden threads. He also had a belt with strange dancing beasts sewn on it around his waist and a piece of jade was hanging from it. He was exuding an air of gallantry and nobility.

When Xiao Xiaolong saw the man, his expression changed and both his eyes and mouth widened in surprise.

"Third... Third..." Xiao Xiaolong stuttered for a while but was still unable to say it.

The young man lifted up his hand to stop Xiao Xiaolong from

speaking, then he faintly nodded and said, "You can just call me third young master. What are you looking at? Why are there so many people gathered here?"

"Third young master, that Sun Qixiang is tyrannizing someone again." Xiao Xiaolong breathed a sigh of relief and was still feeling a little agitated. The identity of the young man in front of him was extraordinary.

"Sun Qixiang? Is that the playboy son of the finance minister, Sun Qing?" the third young master thought for a while before he replied.

Xiao Xiaolong nodded, then joyfully asked, "When did the third young master returned to the imperial city? I did not know at all... Does my sister know?"

The third young master chuckled and said, "I was specially summoned back this time, so there isn't much fanfare. Even Yanyu doesn't know, so there's no way that you would."

Xiao Xiaolong awkwardly fidgeted his body and embarrassedly smiled while blushing.

The young man glanced at the crowd once more, then walked forward while saying, "Xiaolong, keep up with me. Let's get closer."

Then the young man squeezed into the crowd, or to be more accurate, he walked into the crowd. That was because with every

step the young man took, an invisible force would split apart the crowd in front of them.

"A fifth grade Battle-King is amazing, even a human wall can't stop him!" Xiao Xiaolong enviously muttered while watching the elegant third young master and hurriedly followed after him.

The two of them quickly made it to the front of the crowd and were just in time to witness the scene of Sun Qixiang ordering his men to smash the store.

.....

The warm sunlight was shining on Bu Fang's body, making him feel slightly lazy. Even though over a hundred men in the alleyway were clamoring to smash his store, the owner was behaving strangely calm.

He was genuinely calm and not worried in the slightest.

The calm expression on Bu Fang's face was also enraging Sun Qixiang. At his order, several dozen men menacingly charged toward Bu Fang.

When Xiao Xiaolong saw this, he was immediately slightly anxious and wanted to intervene.

However, he was confused when the young man beside him pulled him back.

"Young master, why are you stopping me?"

"That shop owner seems to be quite confident and he doesn't seem afraid at all, so I am curious about his trump card," the young man gently smiled and said.

Bu Fang was seated in the store as around a dozen men charged toward him. As one of them stepped into the shop, he viciously swung his stick at Bu Fang's head.

These servants had already committed many wicked deeds under the orders of Sun Qixiang and would not have any psychological burdens as they were already used to it.

“Bang!”

The stick that was being swung was sent flying as it somersaulted through the air and fell onto the floor with a clatter.

The attacking servants immediately paused as they stared at the robot standing in front of them with fear and bewilderment in their eyes.

Whitey's mechanical eyes were blinking while its plump body was blocking any attempts against Bu Fang and its entire body was glimmering with a metallic luster.

Whitey was a robot that the system created to manage the security of the store and waste disposal. Usually, there were no customers, so there were no security issues. However, since over a hundred men came to cause trouble, Whitey had to step out and stop them.

"Fighting is prohibited in Fang Fang's Little Store. Those who violate the rules, shall be stripped to make an example to others."

The mechanical voice came out from Whitey's mouth, it sounded slightly comical as it echoed throughout the alleyway.

The group of servants were speechless. "Where did this hunk of metal come out from? It actually dared to block the way of over a hundred men?"

Even though the average cultivation level in the group was weak, with the strongest only being a first grade Warrior, there were still a lot of them.

Although there was quite a difference between the strength of a Warrior and a Battle-Master, when there was a large enough difference in the numbers, Warriors could still overwhelm Battle-Masters.

Since the puppet-like robot in front of them did not have any true energy circulating within its body, they were not worried at all.

"That's the hunk of metal, tear it to pieces now!"

When Sun Qixiang saw Whitey, his eyes turned red and he was instantly furious. "How dare it even mention stripping!"

Having received the order from Sun Qixiang, the servants charged toward the store once more.

However, the next scene made them all stop. The servant charging at the very front was thrown out and his clothes were torn off instantly, leaving only a loincloth to cover his private parts.

Then the second, and the third...

One by one, the servants that charged into the store went in with their clothes but were thrown out without them and their almost naked bodies landed in the alleyway.

"How filthy." One of the female onlookers was blushing and covering her face with her hands. However, her hands were wide open and her eyes were looking through the gaps between her fingers... Her face was completely red.

As Sun Qixiang watched his naked servants flying out of the restaurant one by one, his face was almost purple from anger.

"You bunch of idiots! Don't you know that you should all charge at once?! Why would you go in one by one!"

His enraged voice immediately woke up the servants. They looked at each other and immediately charged toward Whitey while brandishing their sticks. Five of them charged into the narrow store at once, but the results were the same.

No matter how many people went in, the same amount of people flew out. All of their clothes were collected by Whitey and stored into his stomach as trash.

In the blink of an eye, over a hundred men were wailing on the floor.

Sun Qixiang's legs were trembling and was unable to comprehend what just happened...

Even a third grade Battle-Maniac would need to go the other way when encountering over a hundred men. He could never imagine that a little restaurant in such a god forsaken place would have such a powerful iron puppet.

Bu Fang was calmly sitting behind Whitey the entire time as he expressionlessly watched the scene unfold.

He only lazily stood up and yawned after all of Sun Qixiang's servants were defeated.

As Bu Fang stood at the entrance of the little store, he looked down at the sullen Sun Qixiang and faintly said, "Whitey, strip that

guy as well. This guy affected my mood to cook today, I'll be annoyed if he doesn't receive some punishment."

"Understood!"

The mechanical voice of Whitey sounded out. Sun Qixiang's expression changed and he immediately turned around to run away. However, Whitey's arm suddenly separated from its torso, flying over tens of meters to grab onto Sun Qixiang's clothes and pulled him into the store.

"Troublemaker in Fang Fang's Little Store, you will be stripped as an example to others," Whitey said with a mechanical voice.

Sun Qixiang wanted to cry as he felt that he was wronged. "Aren't you the one who dragged me into the store?"

"Bang!"

Sun Qixiang's naked body once again flew out and landed into the alleyway. Over a hundred naked bodies huddled together, forming a beautiful... landscape

"Oh... This scene is too filthy!" That female onlooker was still looking through the gaps between her fingers as her face blushed...

Sun Qixiang was too embarrassed to stay there. He brought over a hundred men to take revenge, but the result was...

It was a tragedy.

The large group of men that majestically arrived went back in an even more majestic manner, with nothing on them. This incident created a great ripple within the imperial city. As they went through the main street, it caused countless onlookers to gather around them and even caused a brief breakdown in the pedestrian traffic.

The crowded alleyway soon started to empty and the crowd dispersed. The only ones left were people attracted by the store.

"There was actually a restaurant in this alleyway? Even though I've been living in the imperial city for so many years, I didn't know about this!" a woman exclaimed in surprise.

"It looks like this restaurant has some backing, otherwise they wouldn't dare to strip young master Sun!" an old man remarked.

"That robot is very cute! Let's go in to see it!" A bunch of young girls were actually charmed by Whitey.

And so, a lot of people stepped into the store out of admiration.

Bu Fang had returned to the kitchen and was expressionless, but his mouth widened in amusement.

"I hope they don't get frightened by the price of the dishes."

Chapter 13: Is It Egg-Fried Rice Or Egg-Fried Elixirs?

It was the first time that Fang Fang's Little Store was this lively.

Thanks to the nude streaking of over a hundred men, Fang Fang's Little Store became well-known around the neighborhood. Even though everyone was complaining about the remote location of the restaurant, they still entered out of curiosity.

A woman stepped into Fang Fang's Little Store while carrying a child with a runny nose. The hygiene in the cramped store was very clean, while the immaculate surface of the table showed the attentive nature of the shop owner. The ambiance was set up in a hospitable manner, in order to provide comfort to the customers.

Just from the decoration, you could tell that it was a high quality store.

"Oh my, shop owner, what do you sell here? Your store's decoration is really impressive, it's comparable to the suites at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!" the woman said as she wiped off the mucus of the child in her arms and rubbed it off on her clothes.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly staring at the woman's hands.

"You sound as if you've been to places like the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant! Stop bragging, woman!" the old man disdainfully snorted.

The woman was instantly aggravated by his words. She placed her child down and put her hands on her hips. She was staring at the old man with wide eyes and was ready to duel the old man in a battle of wits.

"Excuse me, customers. If you're looking to order, the menu is right behind you. If you're looking to duel, please do it outside." Bu Fang simply said, interrupting the great battle that was about to occur between the two neighbors.

The woman coldly snorted, only stopping since she remembered that it was someone else's store. She turned to look at the menu while still muttering under her breath, "I can tell that you're not a bad lad and I know that running a business isn't easy, so this old lady will help out a little. I'll order a serving of..."

The woman suddenly stopped talking and was staring at the menu in disbelief as the corner of her mouth twitched violently!

The old man was puzzled by her behavior, so he turned his head toward the woman and saw her expression. When he followed her gaze, he almost vomited blood.

"Oh my god! A bowl of Egg-Fried Rice costs a crystal? A plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables costs a hundred gold coins?! Why don't you go rob a bank or something?!" The old man was so shocked that his beard almost fell out from his trembling.

The woman's plump body was trembling as well as she said with

a piercing voice, "Lad, this is unethical! With this kind of price, who would dare to eat here?!"

The old man and the woman who were originally adversaries suddenly joined forces against Bu Fang.

Meanwhile, he remained indifferent and expressionless.

"There's a reason for the prices. If you're eating, then please make an order. If you're not eating, then please leave."

As someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, Bu Fang had his pride.

The woman looked at Bu Fang as if he was insane, then she quickly left with her child in tow. The hunchbacked old man shook his head as he walked out of the store.

Bu Fang was not surprised by their reactions as it was all within his expectations. The price of the dishes meant that he would lose a lot of customers, since not everyone could afford the terrifying prices.

Most of the people that entered the store reacted the same way as the woman and left while grumbling.

The crowd disappeared as quickly as it appeared.

The lively Fang Fang's Little Store returned to its former desolate state and no one wanted to spend any money there.

Xiao Xiaolong brought the young man into the little restaurant.

He was looking slightly excited. "Since my elder sister isn't here, I think I should have enough crystals to eat a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice."

Since the improved version of Egg-Fried Rice required the customer to be at least a third grade Battle-Maniac before they could order, it was obvious that this dish would be extraordinary. Previously, the ordinary Egg-Fried Rice helped him to advance past a bottleneck, surely the improved Egg-Fried Rice would have better effects!

"Xiaolong, so you are saying that the Egg-Fried Rice in this restaurant is delicious?" The young man stood with his hands around his back as he gave off an aura of excellence. He glanced around the store and simply said.

"That's right! Third young master, the Egg-Fried Rice here is the most delicious I've ever eaten! Even my family's chef... No! Even the Egg-Fried Rice cooked by your family's chef is far inferior to this restaurant's!"

As Xiao Xiaolong recalled the taste of Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice, he dreamily squinted his eyes and a satisfied expression appeared on his face.

The third young master was slightly surprised, he did not expect Xiao Xiaolong to give such a high evaluation. His family's chef was not an ordinary chef, and yet, the Egg-Fried Rice made by a store in such a remote location was superior?

The third young master's interest was suddenly piqued and he turned to look at the menu.

That ridiculously high price that was intolerable to ordinary people caused the third young master to be slightly astonished. He raised his eyebrows and a look of disbelief appeared on his handsome face.

"The Egg-Fried Rice is paid for with crystals? And the improved version costs ten crystals? There's also a minimum requirement for cultivation level as well?"

The price and rules on the menu completely changed the way the third young master saw the world, he never knew Egg-Fried Rice could be sold for such an expensive price.

"Third young master, trust me. My elder sister ate the improved Egg-Fried Rice yesterday and she had to go into seclusion today! Her cultivation level improved by a small grade!" Xiao Xiaolong said.

"Oh? Is that so?" The third young master was amazed. Xiao Yanyu was already a fourth grade Battle-Spirit, so how could a single bowl of Egg-Fried Rice help to increase her cultivation level?

Would it still be Egg-Fried Rice? Should it not be egg-fried elixirs?

"Shop owner, I would like to have the improved Egg-Fried Rice. My cultivation level meets the requirement, there's no need for testing." The third young master gently said to the indifferent Bu Fang who was standing nearby.

"I want a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice as well!" Xiao Xiaolong hurriedly said, but his words were interrupted by the third young master.

The third young master narrowed his eyes and petted Xiao Xiaolong's head with a gentle smile on his face. He said, "Xiaolong, how many crystals did you bring?"

The expression on Xiao Xiaolong's face froze. "Why are these words so familiar?"

"Te... Ten crystals!"

"Hmm, then it's enough."

Xiao Xiaolong sullenly looked at his peony sachet, now in the third young master's hand. He felt as if ten thousand invisible arrows had pierced into his chest.

"I'll treat you next time." The third young master smiled and said, "I forgot to bring money today."

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes were filled with tears. "Why is it so difficult to eat a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice?"

"Shop owner, I want a portion of Dry-Mixed Noodles and one of Stir-Fried Vegetables."

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded.

"One serving of improved Egg-Fried Rice, one serving of Dry-Mixed Noodles and one serving of Stir-Fried Vegetables. Alright, please wait a moment," Bu Fang repeated the order, then went into the kitchen.

Xiao Xiaolong and the third young master sat down at a table. The third young master was very pleased with the elegant environment.

"I didn't know that such an elegant restaurant like this existed in the imperial city, I am surprised that we didn't notice it before. Hmm? Where's the puppet that fought against the hundred men?" The third young master looked around.

He had a deep impression of Whitey, he was amazed by the intelligence displayed by the puppet.

On the Hidden Dragon Continent, Sects were commonplace while empires were the reigning power. Only empires were recognized, while both Orthodox and Heterodox Sects were not.

The current emperor of the Light Wind Empire, Emperor Changfeng, had been reigning for over seventy years. He forcefully conscripted members of Sects into his army. The Sects that accepted the conscription were scattered into various troops, while the ones that did not abide were attacked.

The Light Wind Empire was founded over a thousand years ago. It was founded when the power of the Sects were at its peak and they fought constantly. After over a thousand years of development, the Sects were slowly weakened under the influence of the empire. After two failed "Sect uprising" attempts, they were completely suppressed by the empire.

On the current Hidden Dragon Continent, there were only a few hundred Sects left. Compared to the golden age where there were tens of thousands of Sects, it was in a wretched state.

Of the few hundred Sects that still survived, there were only ten Sects that still struggled against the empire.

The third young master once met a Sect that had declined, it was a Sect that spent its time researching the art of puppetry and had already reached a superb level. He was thinking whether the puppet in this store was related to that Sect.

However, there was quite a difference between Whitey and the puppets from that Sect, as there was no true energy circulating within its body. Thus, the chances of Bu Fang being a remnant of that Sect were low.

Just when he was thinking about the issue, a burst of fragrance drifted out from the kitchen.

The smell was like a piece of silk sliding across his face, causing the third young master to suddenly open his eyes as it triggered his appetite.

"It smells good!" he exclaimed.

Xiao Xiaolong was already immersed in the sea of fragrance, and his eyes became hazy.

The third young master felt that the smell itself was already comparable to dishes cooked by his family's chef and might even be better.

After a while, Bu Fang stepped out of the kitchen.

He was expressionlessly carrying a blue and white porcelain bowl and the top part of the bowl was shrouded in a rich fragrance.

"Here's your improved Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal."

Bu Fang placed the bowl in front of the third young master and simply said, then he returned to the kitchen.

The third young master took in a deep breath and a burst of

fragrance traveled through his nasal cavities into his body. It triggered his appetite as a wave of hunger assaulted him.

The rich fragrance gathered above the top of the bowl. As he pierced the surface of the Egg-Fried Rice with his spoon, the gathered fragrance dispersed like an explosion of an aroma bomb.

The resulting explosion of the aroma bomb immediately rushed toward the third young master.

Chapter 14: I Am A Prince, Why Don't You Become My Chef!

As the third young master scooped the Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth, the rich flavor immediately enveloped his taste buds. It was like the pearl-like rice grains were jumping around in his mouth. The smell of the rice mixed with the eggs was like a cloud that clustered around his body, giving him the feeling of being immersed in a sea of fragrance.

The third young master was captivated as he had never tasted such a delicious Egg-Fried Rice before. He thought that Xiao Xiaolong was right about the fact that his family's chef could not make Egg-Fried Rice that tasted this good.

After swallowing the first spoon of Egg-Fried Rice, the second spoon immediately entered his mouth. In front of delicious food, the only thought left in his mind was to devour it. The greatest respect a person could show to a chef was to completely immerse themselves in the food.

As Xiao Xiaolong enviously watched the scene, his appetite was already triggered. The richness of the smell of the Egg-Fried Rice was simply unbelievable. It was like the smell was gathered together, then was released at once.

Bu Fang was indifferently watching the third young master devour the food as the corner of his mouth widened into a smile. In front of delicious food, a person's identity did not matter. Even an emperor would be captivated by delicious food. He did not know the identity of the third young master and he was not interested

either. At that moment, he only knew that the third young master was his customer and that was enough for him.

Soon Bu Fang returned to the kitchen. He expertly took out the dough and kneaded it, then he pulled it into noodles and soaked it inside hot water. The cooked noodles were then placed into a bowl filled with seasoning that was already prepared. Using chopsticks to mix the noodles with the seasoning, a bowl of piping hot Dry-Mixed Noodles was ready.

After the Dry-Mixed Noodles was done, Bu Fang did not serve it immediately. Instead, he took out a bundle of vegetables from the freezer.

The vegetables were turquoise green and the leaves were lush and shiny. There were even water droplets on it that had not dried off yet. The droplets reflected the light and emitted warm rays.

"These vegetables are wild Purple Ling Vegetables picked from the mid mountain area of Mount Tiandang. It has to receive sunlight for three hours and an hour of moisturizing from the mountain rain everyday. The soil needs to be watered with the water from the crater lake in Mount Tiandang. In order to preserve its vitality and nutritions, it should be harvested early in the morning when the dew has not disappeared yet."

The system's explanation of the vegetable instantly appeared in Bu Fang's mind. He was startled by how fancy it sounded, it was no wonder that a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables could cost a hundred gold coins.

Mount Tiandang was a well-known mountain on the Hidden Dragon Continent. At the very top of the mountain, there was a crater lake. The water in the crater lake was actually full of spirit energy that was gathered from the world. If a person were to drink the water, it would augment the meridians in their body and their cultivation level would increase.

It was not the first time that Bu Fang prepared this dish and he had already reached a miraculous level when it came to cooking it after practicing so many times.

When Bu Fang removed the vegetables from the frying pan and placed them on a plate, it looked the exact same way before he started cooking it, like it had not been stir fried at all.

The truth was that it was only able to retain all of its moisture due to Bu Fang's meticulous control of the heat when cooking.

He carried both the Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables out of the kitchen and placed them in front of Xiao Xiaolong.

"Your Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes immediately lit up as he grabbed the bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles and started to gobble it down. He had been enduring his hunger since he saw the third young master eating.

By the time Xiao Xiaolong started eating, the third young master had already finished his meal. The quantity of the Egg-Fried Rice was too little, so it was quickly finished. However, even though the quantity was not much, the quality was good!

"It's delicious!" The third young master resisted the urge to lick the bowl clean and gave a thumbs up to Bu Fang.

"Shop owner, your Egg-Fried Rice is excellent. I am sure the ingredients are not ordinary as I can feel the spirit energy within the Egg-Fried Rice. As I was eating, I could actually feel my true energy level increase. Even though the increase wasn't much, it is already hard to come by for me."

The third young master continuously gave praises. The fact, that a fifth grade Battle-King like him was able to experience a small amount of increase, had already proven that the Egg-Fried Rice was extraordinary.

"If I didn't guess wrongly, the egg used is from a fifth stage demonic beast, the Deep Sea Foal Eagle!"

Bu Fang looked at the third young master in surprise as he did not expect him to be able to guess the origin of the egg.

"Improved version of Egg-Fried Rice: The egg used is the first egg laid by the fifth stage demonic beast, Deep Sea Foal Eagle. Due to the nourishment and impact by sea energy from the deep sea, the egg contains a rich amount of spirit energy. The rice used is the Wuchang Monarch Rice from the Southern Wastelands. Its grains

are plump and it is full of nutritions. It is chosen as the royal tribute to the emperor."

"I knew it." the third young master thought as a gentle smile appeared on his face. He was correct, the egg was from the fifth stage demonic beast, Deep Sea Foal Eagle. He once tasted the egg before, but it was not made into Egg-Fried Rice. He ate it as fried eggs, but the rich flavor that it produced was still unbelievable.

On the other hand, the third young master paid no heed to the rice since he was familiar with it. He also noticed the plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables that Xiao Xiaolong ordered and clearly remembered that it cost a hundred gold coins.

It was not cheap, so he was curious about what was so special about it.

"Is there anything special about the vegetables?" The third young master curiously asked.

"These vegetables are wild Purple Ling Vegetables picked from the mid mountain area of Mount Tiandang. It is picked early in the morning to preserve the spirit energy," Bu Fang replied.

When the third young master heard that they were Purple Ling Vegetables, he realized the reason for the price.

Purple Ling Vegetables was a type of expensive vegetable that could only grow in extremely strict conditions. However, it was an

excellent ingredient as it was nutritious and would augment the meridians in the body.

If it was Purple Ling Vegetables, then a hundred gold coins would be considered cheap.

"Is it that formidable?" Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was covered in oil from the noodles. When he heard the conversation between Bu Fang and the third young master, his eyes lit up as he muttered to himself.

Swallowing the noodles in his mouth, Xiao Xiaolong picked up the lush and raw-looking Purple Ling Vegetable leaf with his chopsticks.

"Is this really cooked?" Xiao Xiaolong skeptically asked.

He was only certain that the leaf was cooked after he took a sniff and smelled a light fragrance coming from it.

He placed the leaf into his mouth and a crunching noise sounded out as he lightly bit down. Xiao Xiaolong's eyes immediately widened in surprise. He felt as if a cold stream was emanating from inside his mouth. The stream tasted of light sweetness and enveloped his taste buds, refreshing him. It flowed down his esophagus and entered his stomach, then expanded into his four limbs. The feeling was indescribable, it was like countless beauties were massaging his body with their soft hands.

"Is this really vegetables?!" Xiao Xiaolong was shocked. It was his first time eating this kind of Stir-Fried Vegetables and he could not describe how he felt at the moment.

"This dish of Stir-Fried Vegetables is a test of a chef's skill. It needs to retain all of its moisture and nutrients, which requires the chef to be extremely proficient at controlling the heat and grasping the right timing," The third young master commented, then swallowed his saliva.

Bu Fang nodded in agreement. The third young master was correct. Stir-Fried Vegetables was the most demanding in terms of skills among Bu Fang's dishes.

"May I have the pleasure of knowing your name?" The third young master suddenly stood up and gently smiled at Bu Fang.

"My family name is Bu, my given name is Fang," Bu Fang was startled and replied in a straightforward manner.

"I see, so you're Owner Bu. I am very impressed by your culinary skills. I'll be honest with you, I am Ji Chengxue, the third prince of the Light Wind Empire." The third young master faintly smiled as the confident aura of a royalty emanated from his body.

Xiao Xiaolong was stunned. "Why did the young master suddenly reveal his identity?"

"Oh." Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at Ji Chengxue, while

thinking, "So this fellow is a prince. A prince... Is that something impressive?"

When Ji Chengxue saw that Bu Fang was not surprised by his identity, he was slightly bewildered.

"Would Owner Bu be interested in becoming my personal chef? Rest assured that your salary will be satisfactory, how about a hundred crystals per month?" Ji Chengxue said with a smile. He believed that Bu Fang would not reject such an offer.

It was the dream of many chefs in the empire to become his personal chef because it was a chance to instantly achieve fame and recognition.

Besides, a salary of a hundred crystals per month was even higher than what the imperial chiefs received.

Xiao Xiaolong was stunned once more by the third prince's unethical actions. Was he trying to headhunt Owner Bu? How was he going to find delicious Egg-Fried Rice that raised his cultivation level in the future?!

"Owner Bu, you need to hang on! You can't give in to temptations!" Xiao Xiaolong shouted in his mind.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the confident third prince, Ji Chengxue, while the latter was expectantly looking at him.

"Oh... You want me to become your personal chef?"

"That's right!"

"Sorry, but you're not qualified."

Under Ji Chengxue's expectant gaze, Bu Fang simply replied.

Chapter 15: What A Distinctive Group Of Nouveau Riche

The expectant gaze of Ji Chengxue suddenly disappeared and the expression on his face froze.

"He... He actually rejected me!"

Ji Chengxue could hardly believe it. As the third prince of the empire, there were many people who would like to be associated with him. In spite of that, his personal invitation was just cruelly rejected.

More importantly, the reason for the rejection was...

"You're not qualified."

As Ji Chengxue recalled Bu Fang's words and that expressionless appearance, he felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his heart.

However, Ji Chengxue was an astute person. Even though he was rejected, he did not display any signs of anger and only lightly smiled.

"That's right, I... really am not qualified," Ji Chengxue dismayingly exclaimed, as if something had stirred in his heart.

Emperor Changfeng of Light Wind Empire had three sons. The first prince, Ji Chengan was conferred as the crown prince ten years ago. While the second prince, Ji Chengyu was conferred as a king. Only the third prince, Ji Chengxue, had somehow earned the displeasure of Emperor Changfeng and was only a general in the army.

Even though the position of a general was highly respected, it was quite shabby compared to the first and second princes.

"Third prince..." When Xiao Xiaolong saw the depressed look on Ji Chengxue, he wanted to say something but was interrupted by Ji Chengxue.

"Owner Bu, even though you're not interested in becoming my chef, have you ever thought of entering the imperial kitchen and becoming the personal chef of the emperor?"

"I may not be qualified, but the emperor should be qualified," Ji Chengxue said with a chuckle.

Bu Fang glanced at Ji Chengxue and knitted his eyebrows. "Is this guy an idiot? Was I not clear enough?"

"I am not interested in becoming anyone's personal chef, not even the emperor's. If you want to eat my food, then come to my store. Queue up if there's someone ahead of you and pay up when you've finished eating."

Bu Fang was someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, how could the future God of Cooking restrict himself by becoming anyone's personal chef.

Ji Chengxue became silent. He could understand when Bu Fang refused to become his chef. However, he thought it was unbelievable that Bu Fang would refuse to become the chef of the emperor.

Was it not the dream of all chefs to enter the imperial kitchen and cook for the emperor?

Then what was Bu Fang's dream?

"The improved version of Egg-Fried Rice costs ten crystals. Please pay up, thank you," Bu Fang expressionlessly said, he was tired of speaking with the prince.

"Yours is two hundred gold coins," At the same time, he turned to Xiao Xiaolong and said.

Ji Chengxue meaningfully glanced at Bu Fang and gave him ten crystals. Xiao Xiaolong paid his bill as well and then both of them left the store.

A little store that was only ten square metres and did not even have a signboard with a big black dog lying at the entrance. A slim and tall chef with unyielding principles and a mysterious puppet as his assistant, while having perfect culinary skills and high-grade

ingredients of unknown origins... Fang Fang Little's Store exuded mysteriousness.

After Ji Chengxue exited the store, he glanced back and the corner of his mouth curled up. "How interesting."

After collecting the tableware and washing them up, the store became deserted once more. Bu Fang was once again sitting next to the lazy Blacky and basking in the sun.

However, the existence of the store was publicized thanks to the little incident with Sun Qixiang. News of the exorbitant dishes in the store had also circulated throughout the imperial city due to the overreaction of his neighbors.

"Have you guys heard about the bizarre restaurant in that alleyway!"

"Are you talking about the blackhearted restaurant that's selling a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice for ten crystals?"

"Is the owner an idiot? Why would anyone eat there with that kind of price? If any of his Egg-Fried Rice actually sells, I will eat all of the biscuits in my biscuit stall!"

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There would always be some wealthy people in the world with different pursuits from ordinary people. Even the way they viewed

things was different as well.

Bu Fang's peace did not last long as several figures stepped into the store. He was lazily curled up on the chair as he glanced at the group of obese men that had just arrived.

These obese men were all wearing luxurious silk clothings and their coarse fingers were adorned with gold rings. They wore jade amulets around their necks and their belts were embedded with emerald jades.

"What a distinctive group of nouveau riche," Bu Fang thought to himself.

"Shop owner! I heard that the dishes in your store are very expensive and that they're even more expensive than dishes from the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant! We believe that the more expensive something is, the better the quality will be. If your dishes can satisfy our palate, then the price isn't an issue," The leader of the group, an obese man dressed in luxurious clothes and accessories, said in a loud voice.

As they crowded into the little store, they astonishingly took up most of the available spaces. Bu Fang expressionlessly stood up and asked, "What do you want to eat?"

The leader glanced at the menu and his eyes narrowed. Even this affluent group of obese men sucked in a breath of cold air when they saw the price of the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Good, your store is as incredible as expected! Give me a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice!" The obese man said.

"Here's a friendly reminder, you need to be at least a third grade Battle-Maniac to eat the improved Egg-Fried Rice. Don't order it if your cultivation level is not up to par," Bu Fang simply said.

"Our elder brother is known by people in the imperial city as 'Qinggong [Iljima](#)', how could his cultivation level be lower than Battle-Maniac! You just have to cook the food!" The other obese men started to clamor.

Iljima is a fictional character, also known as the Korean Robin Hood. He is well-known for his agility and skills, similar to those of a ninja.

Bu Fang's expression did not change but he covertly glanced toward the obese man, and thought, "With a figure like that, how could there be any relations to Iljima?"

In the end, this group of obese men ordered three servings of improved Egg-Fried Rice, four servings of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice, seven servings of Dry-Mixed Noodles, and seven servings of Stir-Fried Vegetables.

Even for someone as calm as Bu Fang, the corner of his mouth was twitching as he thought, "As expected of people with such body sizes, they really can eat!"

To be able to eat was a blessing. Bu Fang liked people who could eat well.

He entered the kitchen and focused all of his energy into cooking. After a while, a rich fragrance drifted out of the kitchen and enveloped the store.

"This smells so good! I've never smelled anything as good as this!" This group of obese men intoxicatedly narrowed their eyes and inhaled deeply.

They were looking forward more and more to the dish.

As the group of obese men was waiting for their orders, a tall and elegant figure approached the entrance of the store.

When Zhao Ruge saw the mountain of flesh within the store, the expression on his face immediately changed.

"Why is there so many people?" Zhao Ruge was slightly surprised.

"Fatty Jin? I can't believe it." Zhao Ruge quickly recognized one of the obese man in the group.

Jin Fugui, also known as Fatty Jin, was a famous nouveau riche in the imperial city. His family had monopoly over a crystal mine, so he was very rich.

The other fat men were also rich and famous people within the imperial city.

"Why are these fellows eating at this kind of store? Don't they feel that this isn't the type of place that they should be eating at?"

"Get out of the way, let me go in." As Zhao Ruge's paper fan lightly touched one of the obese man, the obese man's body trembled and opened up a path.

Using this open path, Zhao Ruge squeezed into the store and coincidentally encountered Bu Fang, who had just came out of the kitchen with a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice in his hands.

The rich fragrance was like silk wrapping around Zhao Ruge, enveloping him within the aromatic explosion.

"Shop owner, hurry up and serve the dish! We can't wait any more!" Fatty Jin impatiently shouted as the flesh on his face trembled violently.

"Here's your improved version of Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang put down the bowl and simply said, then he turned around to return to the kitchen.

Zhao Ruge woke up from his stupor and was surprised by Bu Fang's culinary skills, "No wonder Yanyu was lured into this place; his cooking skills isn't ordinary."

"Wait, prepare my improved Egg-Fried Rice first," Zhao Ruge demandingly said to Bu Fang.

"Hey! Beanpole! Don't you know about first-come, first-served?" When one of the obese man saw Zhao Ruge trying to jump the queue, he was immediately annoyed and loudly shouted at him.

Zhao Ruge disdainfully glanced at the obese man, then he coldly laughed and said, "Why would I need to be served after you? Who the hell are you to question me?"

"Damn it! I'm so angry!" That obese man was immediately enraged. "I am the owner of Fairview Square! Who the hell are you, brat?!"

"I am Zhao Ruge." He simply said.

Zhao Ruge, son of the Minister of the Left, was extremely noble. Once he announced his name, the obese man was immediately speechless and was staring at him with wide eyes.

Then the obese man bitterly glanced at Zhao Ruge with a face filled with reluctance.

"Fine... Your father is more capable than me, I won't compete with you."

Chapter 16: Nude Streaking Is The Trend In The Imperial City This Year

Zhao Ruge was actually a low-key person. He never showed off the fact that he was the son of the Minister of the Left because he did not want to grow up under his father's shadow.

Strictly speaking, Zhao Ruge was not a playboy like Sun Qixiang because he was an idealist. He hoped that one day when people mentioned Zhao Ruge, they would first think of him instead of his identity as the son of the Minister of the Left.

That was why Zhao Ruge learned martial arts when he was five years old, studied poetry and literature when he was nine and was familiar with the Hundred Schools of Thought by the time he was fifteen. He wanted to become a master of stratagems, so he needed the necessary knowledge and experience.

Even though he did not achieve any stunning achievements in recent years, his efforts were not in vain. At the very least, his name was feared by many people within the imperial city.

Fatty Jin was one of them. As the affluent owner of a crystal mine, he had no choice but to deal with court officials. That was why he knew much more than others, like the fact that Zhao Ruge devised a strategy to kill a fifth grade Battle-King from a Sect.

He knew that Zhao Ruge was a ruthless, meticulous, tenacious and ambitious person.

"Since young master Zhao wishes to order first, then let him go first," Fatty Jin said while lifting up his head and continuing to eat his food. He did not wish to see his buddies clash with that insidious Zhao Ruge, otherwise they might die one day without even knowing why.

The other obese men could only bitterly step back.

Zhao Ruge was very pleased with their reactions. He disdainfully glanced at them and arrogantly sneered.

Bu Fang had been indifferently looking on since the beginning. He did not say anything and could not be bothered to do so.

At last, Zhao Ruge looked at Bu Fang once more and demandingly said, "Why haven't you gone in to cook my food? What are you waiting for?"

Bu Fang was expressionless as he indifferently replied, "Our store's rules are: takeout is forbidden; each customer can order each dish only once per day; creating a disturbance is forbidden; queue jumping is forbidden; and the opening hours lasts three hours."

"Are you emphasizing that queue jumping is forbidden?" Zhao Ruge chuckled, he did not think much of it. It was only the rules of a little store in a remote alleyway. Rules were made by men and were meant to be broken.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows and solemnly said, "No, I am emphasizing that creating a disturbance and queue jumping is forbidden. Also... the opening hours lasts three hours and there is only half an hour left."

"If I am telling you to cook, then you should go and cook! You're just a chef, what's with all this nonsense! The fact that I am eating here is a great honor for you. Don't push your luck," Zhao Ruge was getting tired of speaking with Bu Fang and his expression turned cold as he angrily shouted. Then he kicked an obese man sitting nearby to make him give up his seat.

Here was another idiot who offended the future God of Cooking.

Bu Fang was still expressionless. "Rulebreakers will be blacklisted and the store will no longer provide any services to them, so please queue up accordingly."

After Bu Fang finished what he wanted to say, he entered the kitchen and completely ignored the enraged Zhao Ruge who was banging the table.

After a while, a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was ready. Bu Fang carried it out and placed it in front of one of the obese man, ignoring the outraged Zhao Ruge.

Another Egg-Fried Rice was completed, but Zhao Ruge was still not being served.

After Bu Fang continuously cooked seven servings of Egg-Fried Rice, a rich fragrance had completely enveloped the store, it was as if the store had transformed into a sea of fragrance. Zhao Ruge, who was immersed within it, felt as if time seemed to stretched on forever. His stomach was continuously rumbling.

"What are you doing! Why is my Egg-Fried Rice still not done yet?!" Zhao Ruge, who had been waiting for quite some time, could not endure it any more.

Bu Fang simply glanced at him and said, "There are still three servings of Dry-Mixed Noodles and three servings of Stir-Fried Vegetables before your Egg-Fried Rice."

Zhao Ruge took in a deep breath. As the raging anger within his chest started to sprout, his hair fluttered around in the air and bright lights circulated on his skin.

"I really don't understand, what exactly gave a chef like you the courage to challenge me?" Zhao Ruge's pupils seemed to be twinkling as a terrifying aura emanated from his body.

Zhao Ruge's cultivation level was at third grade Battle-Maniac and was in the upper tier even within the younger generation in the imperial city. Although he was nothing compared to monsters like Xiao Yanyu from Xiao manor and the young 'Marquis that Protects the Country' Yang Chen, he was far superior to playboys like Sun Qixiang.

"Are you trying to start a fight in the store?"

Bu Fang was not frightened at all. Even though the aura coming from Zhao Ruge was very powerful, he was not affected at all.

"So what if I am?" Zhao Ruge sneered as he held out his palm and a stream of true energy gathered in his palm.

"Before you came, over a hundred men came to smash the store and ended up running home naked. Do you want to nude streak as well?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

Zhao Ruge slightly hesitated, then disdainfully smiled and said, "Don't compare me with those trash. If you beg for mercy right now and immediately cook my Egg-Fried Rice, I will forgive you. Otherwise... you can forget about continuing this business."

"There are still three servings of Dry-Mixed Noodles and three servings of Stir-Fried Vegetables."

"You're asking for it!"

Zhao Ruge was truly angry. He took a step forward and true energy gushed out from his hand as he reached toward Bu Fang. He was confident that an ordinary person would not be able to dodge his attack.

Bu Fang calmly stood still as he watched the approaching Zhao Ruge. Before Zhao Ruge even reached him, a whistling wind

coming from his palm made Bu Fang's long hair flap in the wind.

Fatty Jin narrowed his eyes and his aura suddenly changed. The tip of his toes pushed against the ground and his body actually floated into the air. He wanted to stop Zhao Ruge.

"Whitey," Bu Fang softly called.

Fatty Jin's eyes suddenly widened as a white and metallic puppet appeared in front of Bu Fang.

Zhao Ruge's palm mercilessly slapped onto the metallic puppet's body but nothing happened.

Zhao Ruge was stunned and Fatty Jin was bewildered as well.

"Troublemakers, you will be stripped as an example to others!"

Whitey's metallic pupils blinked for a while, then the visions of both Zhao Ruge and Fatty Jin blurred and they felt as if they were flying in the air.

"Bang!"

Zhao Ruge was the first one to be thrown out of the store and fell face first into the mud. He felt a chilly feeling all over his body and discovered all of his clothes were missing, leaving only a loincloth to cover his crotch.

He angrily lifted up his head and looked toward the store. However, the expression on his face quickly turned into horror, because he saw a pile of... white flesh flying out from the store and was wriggling in the air as it headed toward him.

"Boom!" The entire ground slightly shook.

Fatty Jin felt wronged. He was not trying to cause trouble and only wanted to help.

After heavily landing on the ground, Fatty Jin nudged his body as he felt as if there was something underneath him. Immediately, a burst of deranged voice came from below, causing him to quickly get up.

Zhao Ruge was having a nosebleed and his delicate and handsome face had become somewhat distorted.

Bu Fang walked toward the entrance of the store with his arms folded across his chest as Whitey stood behind him with a metallic sheen.

"Today's opening hours has ended, please come back tomorrow. Please pay your bill, the total amount is thirty-four crystals and eight-hundred gold coins."

Bu Fang indifferently said as he glanced at one of the obese men.

That man shuddered and quickly paid the bill, then the entire group got out of the store.

Zhao Ruge quickly left after making a threat with a furious look on his face. However, after looking at his white and naked behind, the believability of his threat was basically zero.

"Haha! Your store is interesting, we'll come back tomorrow!" As Fatty Jin recalled that savory taste of the Egg-Fried Rice, he laughed out loud. Then he swaggered away with his group of buddies as the fat on their bodies jiggled with every step.

The big black dog lying at the entrance snorted, rolled its eyes and went back to sleep. Bu Fang glanced at the back of the group of obese men, then expressionlessly closed up the restaurant for the day.

When Bu Fang got back to his room, he estimated his progression on the mission. Within seven days, he had to make a profit of a hundred crystals and a thousand gold coins. The gold currency part of the mission was fulfilled, so he only needed to get around fifty crystals, which represented five servings of improved Egg-Fried Rice.

"There shouldn't be any problems, if that group of obese men comes tomorrow," Bu Fang muttered.

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"Eh? Isn't that the son of the Minister of the Left, young master Zhao Ruge? Is he taking up nude streaking as well? His buttocks sure is white!" the vegetable seller muttered.

"He's truly the son of the Minister of the Left. That white butt of his is even prettier than a woman's butt!" the shaobing seller muttered.

"Is nude streaking the latest trend in the imperial city? Why don't we do it some other day as well?" the blacksmith said in a loud voice.

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"Bu Fang! If I don't destroy you and your little store, my name isn't Zhao Ruge!" Zhao Ruge, who was covering his body with a basket, angrily roared with tears in his eyes.

Chapter 17: I Heard That Dry-Mixed Noodles Is More Compatible With A Sissy

The incident with Zhao Ruge did not negatively influence Bu Fang's life and did not give him any uneasiness either.

The restaurant was opened for business the next day as usual. After feeding Egg-Fried Rice to the big black dog that was living a pig's life, Bu Fang was curled up on a chair as usual and his life carried on as always.

Fatty Jin and his buddies were completely taken captive after eating Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice the previous day and their minds were completely filled with the delicious food in Fang Fang's Little Store. For someone like Fatty Jin, the amount of a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was far too little and was completely unable to satisfy his appetite.

After he arrived home, he ordered his chef to cook a basin's worth of Egg-Fried Rice. However, compared to Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice, the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice cooked by his chef, that he especially hired from Jiangnan, was simply too terrible. After taking a bite, he found it difficult to continue eating.

The color, smell, and taste were on a completely different level than the Egg-Fried Rice of Fang Fang's Little Store.

After enduring an entire night of hunger, Fatty Jin and his buddies ferociously headed toward Fang Fang's Little Store the next day. People not in the know might even think that they were

going there to look for a fight.

"Owner Bu, good morning!" When Fatty Jin arrived at the alleyway, he was delighted to find that Fang Fang's Little Store had already opened for business.

Bu Fang recognized the obese man. There was no one else with that body size and belly in the entire imperial city.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded at them and said, "Are you here to eat? What are you ordering?"

"Owner Bu, you have very little dishes here, but the taste of your food is wonderful. I was so hungry last night that I couldn't sleep at all. I simply could not wait to eat your Egg-Fried Rice, that's why I brought my buddies here to eat this early." Fatty Jin was grinning as he naturally walked into the store.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened to reveal an awkward smile. He was obviously happy when someone praised his food.

"However, Owner Bu, I have an advice for you. You could try making a breakfast menu. See, you're open so early and yet, you're only selling oily food. It's a waste of the morning period. Of course, your Egg-Fried Rice is not oily at all!"

Bu Fang thought for a while, then nodded his head and simply said, "There will be in the future, wait for it."

Fatty Jin smile as he sat down on a chair and said, "Owner, I want a serving of every dish. I am so hungry that I can't stand it."

Bu Fang gently answered with a "hmm" then turned to the rest of the obese men. They naturally ordered all of the dishes like Fatty Jin.

When it came to these obese men, Bu Fang was not worried at all that they would waste any food. The only possible worry would be there was not enough for them to eat.

"Alright, please wait," After noting their orders, Bu Fang entered the kitchen.

Be it starting the fire or turning on the stove, everything was done quickly and proficiently.

With a burst of fire and a tilt of the frying pan, a spatula was used to scoop out the Egg-Fried Rice. The egg fluid, which was eighty percent cooked, enveloped every single plump rice grain. As it was carried out of the kitchen, the rich fragrance triggered a barrage of rumbling within the stomachs of the obese men.

When Bu Fang brought out the second serving of Egg-Fried Rice, Fatty Jin was already licking the bowl. When he saw Bu Fang, he quickly put down the bowl, gave a thumbs up and said, "Owner Bu, this taste is the best! It is the most delicious Egg-Fried Rice that I've ever eaten in my entire life! And I can't believe that this Egg-Fried Rice actually stimulates the true energy within my body. No wonder it costs ten crystals! I'll have another serving!"

"I am sorry, every customer can only order each dish once per day," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

"Owner Bu, money isn't an issue, I don't mind paying more! Give me another serving, this little amount is completely unable to fill my stomach," Fatty Jin shyly said. He really did not care about money at all.

Compared to delicious food, money did not matter!

"No, these are the rules," Bu Fang coldly said. Then he turned around and entered the kitchen, ignoring the depressed Fatty Jin.

When all the orders were completed, Bu Fang was massaging his slightly aching shoulders as he walked out of the kitchen.

Fatty Jin and his buddies had already contentedly finished their food. They greeted Bu Fang one after another and he expressionlessly nodded back at them.

"The total is fifty five crystals and a thousand gold coins."

"Ssss..."

Even though these obese men did not lack money, they still sucked in a breath of cold air when they heard the price. Only this group of nouveau riche could spend so much money in a single

meal.

"I will treat you guys today. Let's patronize Owner Bu's business more often in the future. We can't let this delicious dishes be neglected!" Fatty Jin was extremely generous as he waved his arm and footed the bill.

"Please come again next time." Bu Fang watched as the group of satiated obese men left with an awkward smile appeared on his face.

"My host, congratulations for completing the mission: a profit of a hundred crystals and a thousand gold coins within a week," the system's solemn voice sounded out in Bu Fang's mind, causing his calm heart to become slightly happy. He thought, "I finally completed the mission."

However, there was very little change in his expression. Even though the system had already distributed the reward, he did not check them as it was still within opening hours.

Outside the store, a tall and slim figure slowly approached.

"Owner Bu, good afternoon. Give me a serving of improved Egg-Fried Rice." the third prince, Ji Chengxue, said with a smile, then found a seat and sat down.

Bu Fang nodded and said, "Please wait a moment."

The group of obese men had eaten all the way from morning until the afternoon.

Just when Bu Fang was cooking the Egg-Fried Rice in the kitchen, another two figures appeared outside the entrance.

"Your Highness is here as well?" Xiao Xiaolong was pleasantly surprised by Ji Chengxue, who was already inside Fang Fang's Little Store. Beside Xiao Xiaolong was the slim Xiao Yanyu, who was wearing a veil.

The energy that Xiao Yanyu emitted was even more powerful than before and bright lights were periodically flashing on her jade-like skin.

"Yanyu's cultivation level has once again improved, as expected of the monstrous genius that could compete with the young 'Marquis that Protects the Country'." Ji Chengxue gently smiled.

Xiao Yanyu faced Ji Chengxue and slightly curtsied, "The young 'Marquis that Protects the Country' is amazingly talented and had reached the peak of fourth grade Battle-Spirit at the age of fifteen. How could I compete with him? Your Highness is far too kind."

"Haha, are you here to eat? Owner Bu's culinary skills is truly unparalleled, I feel that he's far better than the imperial chef," Ji Chengxue said with a laugh.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen, in his hands was a blue and

white porcelain bowl with the glowing Egg-Fried Rice. The rich aroma spread across the room, causing Ji Chengxue and the rest to be intoxicated.

"Here's your improved version of Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

"Owner Bu, do you have alcohol here? If this delicious Egg-Fried Rice is matched with good wine, then it would be perfect!" Ji Chengxue earnestly looked at Bu Fang and suggested.

"Wine?" Bu Fang paused for a moment, then he nodded.

"There will be in the future, wait for it."

"Owner Bu, give me two servings of improved Egg-Fried Rice and two servings of Stir-Fried Vegetables," Xiao Xiaolong excitedly said.

"Please wait a moment," Bu Fang turned around to return to the kitchen. When he reached the entrance, he suddenly turned around and said, "Sissy, don't you want Dry-Mixed Noodles as well? I heard that Dry-Mixed Noodles is more compatible with a sissy."

Xiao Xiaolong expressionlessly looked at Bu Fang. If he had a knife on him, he would have unhesitatingly slashed at Bu Fang.

Xiao Yanyu and Ji Chengxue immediately laughed and was

grinning from ear to ear. They did not realize that the cold and strict Owner Bu was so humorous.

Bu Fang was slightly confused. He was just talking about a fact. Xiao Xiaolong came a few times and only ordered a bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles, but every time he would cheerfully finish it. The two were definitely compatible. Ignoring them, Bu Fang entered the kitchen.

After the three of them finished their meals, they paid their bills and parted ways with Bu Fang. They left Fang Fang's Little Store with satisfied smiles on their faces.

It was the favorite scene of every chef to see their customers leave with a satisfied smile on their faces. Even someone as cold as Bu Fang was not an exception.

After cleaning up the tableware, there was only half an hour left before Fang Fang Little Store's opening hours was over.

Bu Fang stretched his body and yawned, then curled up on the chair and leaned against the doorway. He planned to spend the last half an hour in relaxation.

The scorching sun was gradually moving and its rays were turning gentler. The shadows of buildings in the alleyway started to lengthen like a classical oil painting.

Bu Fang was starting to fall asleep.

“Da da da!”

Just then, a series of footsteps sobered him up.

A petite figure wearing a floral dress swiftly rushed into the store. She was leaning against the wall as she breathed heavily while bending over.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the person in front of him.

Chapter 18: The Flat-Chested Loli That Ran Away From Home

It was a dainty loli.

She was wearing a floral dress and her hair was rolled up into a bun. Her tender skin was as white as snow and her large eyes were sparkling. Her exquisite and adorable face, while her delicate full lips were glossy pink.

The little loli patted that flat chest of hers and caught her breath. When she carefully peeked out of the entrance and realized that no one had caught up with her, she finally breathed a sigh of relief. That was when she realized that Bu Fang was staring at her. She immediately glared at him and said, "What are you looking at? Haven't you seen a beauty before!"

"You're just a flat-chested loli," Bu Fang simply retorted and stood up from his chair.

Bu Fang was 1.8 metres tall and was looking down at the little loli from high up above. The little loli had to raise her head to look at Bu Fang.

"Would you like something to eat?" Bu Fang asked. There was less than half an hour left until the opening hours was over. He originally thought that there would not be any customers and did not expect a little loli would appear out of nowhere.

"Who are you calling flat-chested!" The little loli was pouting as she fumingly stared at Bu Fang and said, "It's just that I haven't gone through puberty yet!"

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at the little loli's flat chest and the corner of his mouth widened...

When the little loli saw the expression on his face, she almost went into a rage.

"If you're ordering, then hurry up. There's less than half an hour before the store closes," Bu Fang coldly said.

The little loli looked out the entrance once more and when she saw that her pursuers had ran past the alleyway, she breathed a sigh of relief. Then she sauntered toward a table, sat down on a chair and said, "What do you have here, tell me."

"It's all on the menu, turn around and see," Bu Fang replied.

"Can't you just tell me?!" the little loli fumingly glared at Bu Fang once more, then turned her head to look at the menu.

"This is a criminal's den! This is definitely a criminal's den!" When the little loli saw the prices on the menu, she immediately flew into a rage. She jumped up from the chair and pointed at Bu Fang while shouting.

"Black-hearted owner, I will let my father arrest you!"

Bu Fang's face darkened and the corner of his mouth twitched. He was someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, he had no time to waste on this little loli.

And so, Bu Fang patted the little loli on her head, then picked her up and headed toward the entrance of the store. As he walked, he said to her, "Good girl, you should go home and play."

The little loli, who was being carried by Bu Fang, immediately struggled as her adorable little face contorted with fury.

"You lecher, let go of me!"

She did not want to leave. Her father's guards were still looking for her and if she went outside, she would immediately be caught.

"I will order something, I will order!" The little loli's eyes did a little turn and she said in a tender voice.

Bu Fang was stunned for a moment, then he placed her down.

The little loli knitted her eyebrows and angrily snorted, then quickly went back to her seat and said, "Give me the most expensive dish!"

"No, your cultivation level does not meet the requirement," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

The little loli was startled as she thought, "What kind of a store is this, why does my cultivation level need to be checked just to eat a meal!"

"Then give me a serving of Egg-Fried Rice then," the little loli twitched her mouth and helplessly said.

"Please wait a moment." Bu Fang glanced at the little loli, then he went into the kitchen.

The little loli was bored to death as she waited. She glanced at her surroundings and realized that the ambience was not that bad.

After a while, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen with a blue and white porcelain bowl that contained the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Here's your Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal."

"It... It smells good!"

The little loli's eyes immediately lit up. She was stunned as she watched the shimmering Egg-Fried Rice. The rich fragrance was making her stomach rumble loudly.

The little loli began to gobble down the food without any restraint.

"Nom nom." For some reason, Bu Fang suddenly felt that the way she ate was quite similar to the big black dog.

A bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was completely consumed by the little loli.

Rubbing her bulging belly, the little loli comfortably exhaled as she lay on the chair. She thought, "It's really delicious!"

"That would be one crystal, thank you," Bu Fang stared at the little loli from high up above.

The little loli blinked her adorable eyes as she looked at Bu Fang. Suddenly, her eyes turned wet and her rosy little mouth pouted. She pitifully said to Bu Fang, "Big brother, I ran away from home and I didn't bring any money with me. Since I am so cute, could you not charge me?"

Bu Fang expressionlessly thought, "Oh, so this loli is a freeloader. No wonder she resembled Blacky."

The big black dog lying at the entrance suddenly lifted its head and alertly scanned its surroundings. After finding nothing, it yawned and resumed lying down.

"You don't have any money?" Bu Fang asked.

"That's right!" The little loli blinked her wet and large eyes and pitifully said, "I don't have any money on me."

"Whitey," Bu Fang lightly called.

The little loli was startled, then felt a giant shadow had suddenly appeared behind her.

"Troublemaker, you will be stripped as an example to others," Whitey's electrical eyes were blinking as he mechanically said.

"Stri... Strip?! It wants to strip me?!"

The little loli went into a daze, then her face turned white in fright.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched violently as well and he quickly stopped Whitey.

"System, what's the punishment for freeloaders?" Bu Fang touched his nose and asked. No matter what, the brat was still a girl. Even though she had no breasts, it would not be a good idea to strip her.

The little loli was already frightened to death and both of her legs were trembling. She thought, "This is definitely a criminal's den! There's actually a terrifying thing here that wants to strip someone as cute as me!"

"There are two punishments: one, the offender will be stripped as

an example to others; two, the offender will pay the debt with their body." The system solemnly replied.

"Pay the debt with their body? There's actually such a method?" Bu Fang raised his eyebrows and glanced at the flat chest of the little loli, then he sighed and shook his head,

"The so called 'pay the debt with their body' means they will work as a waiter in the store for a week." The system solemnly corrected the immoral thoughts in Bu Fang's mind.

Without even skipping a heartbeat, Bu Fang lightly coughed.

"Since you don't have any money to pay the bill, then you'll need to work here for a week. Your main job will be serving dishes to the customers," Bu Fang said.

The little loli was stunned for a moment, then happily nodded her head and said, "Alright!"

This time, it was Bu Fang's turn to be surprised. He thought, "Why would you readily agree, shouldn't you refuse?"

"You're not getting any pay!" Bu Fang reminded her, only for the little loli to roll her eyes in response.

And so, the little loli that ran away from home stayed at Fang Fang's Little Store and became a waitress.

Once the opening hours was over, Bu Fang closed up the store and went upstairs.

The little loli, that ran away from home and had nowhere to stay, was placed in one of the other rooms. This was only because she begged and disturbed Bu Fang for quite a while before he finally agreed.

.....

"My host, congratulations for completing a short term mission, you shall soon receive the system reward. The system reward is being released..."

Bu Fang was excitedly sitting in his room, waiting full of expectation. "The reward this time should be a new dish."

"You have taken a solid step forward in your road to become the God of Cooking. The rewards: cooking methods for Fish Tri-Cooking and Golden Shumai; a fragment of the God of Cooking set."

Bu Fang was stunned, "Fish Tri-Cooking? Golden Shumai?"

"Does that count as unlocking new skills? And it was two at once!"

Bu Fang felt as if he was struck by happiness.

Chapter 19: Lees Fish And Fish Head Tofu Soup

"What is Fish Tri-Cooking?" Bu Fang wondered. As a chef, he was familiar with cooking fish and knew that it was an excellent ingredient.

Different types of fish could be used to produce different gourmet food.

"Fish Tri-Cooking is the three methods to cook fish: Lees Fish, Boiled Fish, and Fish Head Tofu Soup. The system will provide fresh ingredients for the host. Based on your current true energy level, freshwater and saltwater fish of the third grade are available. As your true energy level increases, the grade of the fish provided will increase as well," the solemn voice of the system resounded in Bu Fang's mind.

He was stunned for a moment as he did not think that Fish Tri-Cooking was referring to three methods of cooking fish. Bu Fang was not a stranger to these cooking methods either and had once eaten the authentic Lees Fish at Poyang Lake on Earth.

However, the key to making Lees Fish was the alcohol. An extremely strong and mellow wine must be used. Only then would the aroma of the wine permeate into the fish during the marinating process. Normally, a quality plate of Lees Fish would be covered with pale pink distillers grains with a rich alcoholic aroma and the meat of fish would have an enticing jujube-like red color.

"The alcohol is the key to making the dish, but would the system be providing it?" Bu Fang thought.

"For the Lees Fish cooking method, the best rice wine distillers grains will be provided everyday. However, the host has to manually marinate the fish," the system said.

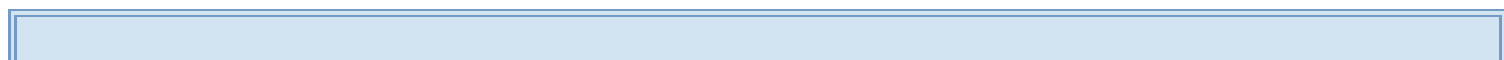
Bu Fang nodded. Since the system was going to provide the rice wine distillers grains, there would not be any issue with cooking the Lees Fish.

Bu Fang was very familiar with both the Boiled Fish and the Fish Head Tofu Soup. Boiled Fish was a very popular dish on Earth that hawkers would be selling on the streets until nightfall.

On the other hand, Fish Head Tofu Soup was an unusual home-cooked dish. However, cooking the dish was still not an issue for Bu Fang.

"The host has completed the short term mission. The current earnings of a hundred crystal converted to true energy is equivalent to ten crystals, the true energy level has been increased to Battle-Master. My host, congratulations for increasing your true energy level! You have taken another step to become the God of Cooking! Work hard, young man!" the system solemnly said.

The system's announcement made Bu Fang rejoice as he quickly called out the character panel.



Host: Bu Fang

True Energy Cultivation Level: Second Grade (As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Yet to be unlocked

Skills: Yet to be unlocked

Tools: Yet to be unlocked

God of Cooking overall rating: Beginner (Your cultivation level is finally on the right track. Work hard, young man.)

System Level: Two Stars (Conversion ratio is at twenty percent, obtained permission to release furnitures, customers are allowed to bring ingredients lower than third grade.)

Bu Fang heavily breathed out. He lifted up his hand and his body started to glow, as if an invisible energy was circulating in it.

A second grade Battle-Master could not manifest true energy outside of their body but it was perceptible when circulating within the body. As the circulation of true energy within his body continued, Bu Fang felt more and more energetic as his fatigue gradually disappeared; there was even black impurities being expelled from his body.

If this scene was witnessed by others, they would definitely be shocked. Bu Fang was experiencing a metamorphosis: a process that would only appear when a person became a fourth grade Battle-Spirit.

When Bu Fang touched his chest and felt the bulging muscles, a stiff smile appeared on his face. As a chef, a strong physique was necessary. Even though the system only increased his true energy level and did not impart any combat skills to him, it was more than enough.

It was because the system was designed to create a chef and not a fighter. With the help of the system, his goal was to become the God of Cooking.

The stench of the impurities expelled from his body made Bu Fang frown in displeasure and he went to take a shower.

After freshening up, Bu Fang changed into a new set of clothes and entered the kitchen. He could not wait to try out the the new techniques that he learned.

A wine vat had mysteriously appeared in the corner of the kitchen, causing Bu Fang to raise his eyebrows in surprise. He quickly realized that it was probably prepared by the system for cooking the Lees Fish.

In order to cook the Lees Fish, there were high requirements for the alcohol. As Bu Fang unsealed the cloth cover of the wine vat, a

burst of thick wine aroma gushed out. Bu Fang wrinkled his nose as a slight redness appeared on his face.

"What a rich wine aroma!"

Bu Fang looked into the wine vat and saw the surface was evenly covered with a layer of tan distillers grains dipped in a smooth and aromatic wine. Using a bamboo ladle to scoop up the distillers grains, Bu Fang brought it to his nose and sniffed. He detected a faint sour smell with a hint of sweetness. When he rubbed a little of distillers grains between his fingers, it felt soft and sticky. Without any doubt, it was an excellent vat of distillers grains. Both the grains and the resulting wine were high quality.

"As expected of the system, the quality of the product is the finest!"

After Bu Fang resealed the wine vat, his gaze landed on the fish tank in another corner of the kitchen with two fishes lazily swimming around in it.

Bu Fang had never seen these species of fish before. He was certain that they did not exist on Earth. One of the fishes had a faint blue glow surrounding its body; its eyes were moving about in a lively manner and had a perfectly shaped body. The other fish was far more menacing; it had a bulging head and a pitch-black body with reflective scales.

Bu Fang expressionlessly stood in front of the fish tank with his sleeves rolled back and stared at the two fishes. Suddenly, both of

his hands moved and swiftly entered the water. In the moment ripples appeared on the water's surface, he had already caught the glowing fish in his hands. The reaction of the fish was quick as well as it suddenly emitted a shockwave from its body to escape from Bu Fang's hands.

After all, it was not an ordinary fish but a third grade spirit beast. Even though it was weak at fighting, it was still capable of struggling.

Bu Fang seemed like an experienced fisherman as his fingers tightly grasped around the body of the fish and it gradually stopped struggling. The fish was eventually scooped out of the water and placed on the chopping board.

The kitchen was renovated and prepared by the system, so all sorts of kitchenware were available. Bu Fang randomly grabbed a kitchen knife; the knife glimmered menacingly but did not affect his movements.

"The third grade Ice Sea Fish is a type of seawater fish caught in the northeastern waters of the Light Wind Empire. Its body radiates a blue glow, the meat contains cold energy and is also filled with spirit energy. It is an excellent ingredient."

The rating that the system gave to the blue-glow fish was not low, since the system would not provide any poor ingredients to Bu Fang in the first place. It was natural since having good ingredients was a necessity for cooking gourmet food. There would be a world of difference in the taste if poor ingredients were provided.

Guiding true energy to his palms, Bu Fang used the flat side of the knife to smack the fish on its head. The fish, that was still struggling moments ago, suddenly became still.

Bu Fang proficiently handled the descaling and gutting of the fish. In a while, an Ice Sea Fish was successfully processed. He walked to the wine vat and opened it. After stuffing the belly of the fish with distillers grains, he shoved the entire fish into the wine vat to marinate it.

"The special wine vat can speed up the marinating process. Estimated time to finish is three hours," the system announced.

Bu Fang was startled, then nodded his head. If the marinating process could be hastened, then he would be able to sell it by the time his store opened for business.

After placing the Ice Sea Fish into the wine vat, Bu Fang began to prepare the second dish.

The number of fishes in the tank became two once more. Without him even noticing, the system had already replenished the stock of fishes to ensure that Bu Fang would always have access to his ingredients.

This time Bu Fang scooped out the black and stout fish. After processing it, he cut off its head and started to cook the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

From the refrigerator, Bu Fang took out a pearly white tofu and began to cook.

"Third grade Thunder Silver Carp is a type of freshwater fish caught in the Southern Wasteland Great Lakes of the Light Wind Empire. It has a hefty head and plenty of flesh; the fish tastes refreshing with a slight prickling sensation. It is an excellent ingredient."

"Ice-crystal Jadeite Tofu is made using the Exquisite Spirit Energy Soybeans from the northern parts of the Light Wind Empire. It is manually grinded and the manufacturing process is complicated. It is used as a royal tribute."

As both the fish and tofu were extraordinary, Bu Fang could not help but be filled with expectations for the fish-head tofu soup.

As Bu Fang lifted up the lid, a rich fragrance with a faint scent of meat rushed out of the pot into his nasal cavities. He subconsciously deeply inhaled and triggered a series of rumbling noises from his stomach.

At the same moment, the bored little loli staying in the guest room suddenly sniffed a few times. Her large and adorable eyes did a little turn and were filled with delight.

"What a nice smell! Could it be that deadpan owner is cooking something delicious? This smell... It's not Egg-Fried Rice!" This little girl had a very good sense of smell. She quickly got off the bed

and rushed out of the guest room.

Back in the kitchen, Bu Fang had just scooped out of the fish-head tofu soup from the pot.

With just the milky white soup, a fat and tender fish head, and pearly white tofu, it was the most primitive combination of fish head and tofu.

The aromatic and appetizing Fish Head Tofu Soup was then placed onto the table.

Chapter 20: Drinking A Bowl Of Fish Soup

A blue and white porcelain bowl contained the Fish Head Tofu Soup; fresh and tender fish meat was floating in the pristine milky-white fish soup, along with crystal-clear tofu that looked brittle to the touch. The rich fragrance converged at the top of the bowl and exuded a captivating radiance under the dim lighting.

Bu Fang satisfactorily took a deep breath as the faint fragrance of the fish rushed through his nasal cavities and spread into his limbs. The Fish Head Tofu Soup was actually a slightly difficult home-cooked dish as it tested a chef's control over heat. However, with Bu Fang's culinary skills, that was naturally quite accomplished.

That was the only way to produce the pristine, milky-white fish soup.

After bringing the blue and white porcelain bowl out of the kitchen and placing it on a table in the store, Bu Fang took out a smaller bowl and was ready to personally taste the delicious Fish Head Tofu Soup.

"My dear boss, what did you cook? It smells so good!" Just when Bu Fang was about to start eating, a small head popped out from behind the door. Her charming, large eyes were staring at the bowl of Fish Head Tofu Soup in front of him.

Bu Fang was startled for a moment, then he expressionlessly glanced at the little loli. He almost forgot about her, but he was not

surprised that she would be attracted by the smell of the soup.

"I am trying out a new dish," Bu Fang simply said.

Just as he finished the sentence, the little loli was already standing in front of him. She was licking her lips while her eyes were staring at the bowl without blinking.

"A new dish? It looks delicious. Is this fish soup? Why is the soup milky-white?

"Eh? This tofu is beautiful. It looks just like a piece of artwork. How did it retain such an appearance after cooking?

"Wow! This fish head has a lot of meat! It looks delicious!"

.....

Bu Fang put down his bowl and chopsticks, and looked at the babbling little loli. He awkwardly sighed and said, "Go and get a bowl and chopsticks, we'll eat it together."

The little loli's eyes immediately lit up, and a gleeful smile appeared on her chubby face. "Boss, you're the best!"

And so, the little loli ran into the kitchen, then quickly returned with a porcelain bowl in hand and was impatiently staring at Bu Fang.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into an awkward smile. He took over the bowl in her hand and filled half of it with fish soup. Then he added a piece of fat, tender fish meat and two pieces of crystal-clear tofu into the bowl.

The little loli happily received the bowl. She brought it close to her nose and inhaled; she could not help but delightfully yell out from the warm fragrance.

The little loli seemed to be quite knowledgeable about eating. She did not immediately eat the fish meat, but lifted the bowl and drank the soup instead. The milky white soup passed through her tender lips and into her mouth. The slight viscosity caused the soup to feel as smooth as silk. The rich taste was released in her mouth and completely enveloped her taste buds while the refreshing taste completely relaxed her entire body.

"D... Delicious! It smells so good!" The little loli satisfactorily sipped from the bowl; her large eyes were squinting like two crescent moons. She had a satisfied expression on her face, as if she could drink from this bowl for the rest of her life.

"Don't just drink the soup, you should try the fish meat as well. You might be surprised," Bu Fang simply said. He gently looked on as the little loli drank the soup.

Bu Fang picked up his own bowl of soup and started to drink as well. The taste was indeed savory and the freshness of the ingredients was fully exhibited.

"Ah! This fish... Why is there a prickling sensation!" After eating a piece of fish, the little loli was taken aback. Even though eating the fish meat gave her a prickling sensation, it did not lower her rating of the dish but increased it. The prickling sensation came from the ingredient itself, and when combined with the refreshing taste, its richness was increased and made the taste more apparent.

The tofu was extremely soft as well and melted in her mouth. The faint taste of the tofu mixed with the residual taste of the fish gave her a peculiar pleasure.

"This is the most delicious soup I've ever tasted!" The little loli earnestly said toward Bu Fang after she finished the last drop of soup. It was not only delicious, but also improved her true energy circulation and a warm feeling was spreading throughout her body.

"Hmm, I see. Sleep early if you've finished eating. There's still work tomorrow," Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and reminded her.

The little loli's facial expression froze, then she haughtily snorted. She put down the bowl in her hands and was about to return to her room. However, she hesitated for a moment when she reached the door, then turned toward Bu Fang and said, "Smelly boss, my name is Ouyang Xiaoyi. You can call me Xiaoyi."

Bu Fang was startled and said, "Hmm, I see."

" ... "

The little loli was annoyed. She thought, "I've already told him my name, shouldn't this smelly boss tell me his name?"

"Smelly boss, what's your name?" Xiaoyi haughtily asked.

"Bu Fang," Bu Fang simply replied as he tidied up the tableware. Xiaoyi snorted and finally satisfactorily went back to sleep.

After placing the tableware in the automatic dishwasher, Bu Fang stretched his body and intended to have an early rest. Even though his body was stronger, it was still important to have a good rest.

Since Bu Fang had already eaten the Fish Head Tofu Soup and his mouth still retained the delicious taste of the dish, he had no intention of cooking his other reward, the Golden Shumai, for the moment.

The night passed without any incident.

When the morning sunlight touched the entrance of the store, Bu Fang had already completed his daily training and opened the store.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was rubbing her eyes as she came down the stairs. She spotted Bu Fang feeding the big black dog at the entrance and curiously went up to him. When she saw that the big black dog was eating the Egg-Fried Rice that she ate yesterday, she was

completely bewildered.

Bu Fang glanced at her and expressionlessly said, "I forgot to tell you something yesterday. Since you're repaying your debt by working here, your meals won't be provided. If you're eating here, then you'll still need to pay."

When the little loli heard him, she forced herself to look away from the big black dog and immediately used a pitiful gaze to look at him.

However, Bu Fang was completely unaffected.

"Fine..." The little loli gave up and viciously laid a curse on Bu Fang so he would not be able to find a wife.

Bu Fang was leisurely curled up on the chair and basking in the warm sunlight, while Ouyang Xiaoyi was bitterly sitting nearby. The scene was still quite... harmonious.

Finally, Fatty Jin and his buddies arrived and familiarly greeted Bu Fang.

"Good morning, Owner Bu! The weather is good today." A smile appeared on Fatty Jin's face.

Bu Fang nodded and lightly replied with a "hmm". Then he got up and entered the kitchen, "If you're ordering anything, tell it to that girl. Oh, and there's a new dish today. Do you want to give it a

try?"

"Oh my! What a cute little girl. Owner Bu, you have such a unique preference!" Fatty Jin teasingly laughed at him and looked toward Ouyang Xiaoyi. However, the smile on his face soon disappeared and his cheeks slightly trembled.

"Oh my god! Why is she here! Damn it!"

Fatty Jin blinked furiously and looked at the little loli. "That's right... It really is her! Owner Bu is truly formidable, how did he get her to be his waitress... Did those three barbaric brothers of her agree to this?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi recognized him as well. She immediately snorted and impatiently said, "Fatty Jin, what are you ordering? Hurry up."

"I'll have the improved Egg-Fried Rice and the new dish today," Fatty Jin hurriedly said. The other obese men also ordered their dishes as well. However, they did not order as much as yesterday. After all, the dishes were not cheap.

"Alright, wait for it." Ouyang Xiaoyi seriously memorized their orders and headed toward the kitchen. Once she reached the entrance, she reported their orders to Bu Fang.

"Hmm? Only Fatty Jin ordered the Fish Head Tofu Soup?" Bu Fang was slightly surprised, but it was within his expectations.

After all, the price of the Fish Head Tofu Soup was not cheap: twenty crystals per serving. It was exorbitant.

Only someone with money like Fatty Jin would dare to freely order this dish. Even though the others were rich as well, their wealth could not be compared with his.

"Fish Head Tofu Soup, how interesting. For it to be sold for twenty crystals, I am looking forward to it!" Fatty Jin was filled with expectations as he sat on the chair.

Chapter 21: Smelly Boss, You Liar!

Fish Head Tofu Soup required more time to prepare than Egg-Fried Rice because simmering took time. Which was why Bu Fang was preparing Fish Head Tofu Soup and Egg-Fried Rice at the same time.

There was a window between the kitchen and the dining area, which seemed to have been just created by the system. Bu Fang placed the Egg-Fried Rice that was finished at the window and called out for the little loli.

"This is the improved Egg-Fried Rice, serve it to the customer," Bu Fang simply said. Then he ignored the bewildered loli and returned to the kitchen.

"He's really... telling me to serve the customers?!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes widened and her face was filled with surprise. With her status, no one would dare to let her perform any heavy work, let alone make her serve dishes like a maidservant.

The little loli looked in Bu Fang's direction while scrunching her nose, then haughtily snorted.

With both of her hands holding the bowl, she could smell the rich fragrance of the Egg-Fried Rice. The little loli, who had not eaten breakfast yet, was feeling hungry from the smell.

"Why does it smell so good!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was going crazy. It was almost like the golden Egg-Fried Rice was radiating boundless

temptation as it continuously stimulated her appetite.

"Working as a waitress here is simply inhumane!" Ouyang Xiaoyi muttered in her heart. She placed the Egg-Fried Rice in front of Fatty Jin and angrily snorted. "How dare this fatty make me serve him!"

When Fatty Jin saw that Ouyang Xiaoyi was actually serving the dish herself, he immediately got up to receive her with an overwhelmed expression.

Ouyang Xiaoyi ignored him and quickly returned after placing the Egg-Fried Rice down. She was afraid that she would not be able to endure the temptation and eat the dish herself.

As Bu Fang was placing another bowl of Egg-Fried Rice at the window, he was stunned when he saw the Ouyang Xiaoyi who was returning.

Ouyang Xiaoyi had tied a handkerchief over her head with the knot covering her nostrils and looked like a thief.

"What's wrong?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

"Smelly boss! Do you know how difficult it is for a waitress to resist the temptation?!" The little loli said as she exasperatedly rolled her eyes at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang's mouth widened, but he was not smiling.

After around fifteen minutes, the Fish Head Tofu Soup was finally ready. The rich fragrance immediately drifted out of the kitchen and engulfed the entire store.

Fatty Jin was eating Egg-Fried Rice when he suddenly paused. He raised his head and sniffed the air, as if he wanted to inhale all of the fragrance in the air into his nose.

"It smells really good! It doesn't smell like Egg-Fried Rice! Could this be the smell of the new dish!" Fatty Jin muttered to himself. Then his eyes lit up as he expectantly looked toward the kitchen.

The bowl that was used to serve the Fish Head Tofu Soup was comparatively larger, so Bu Fang did not let the little loli serve the dish. Instead, he slowly walked out of the kitchen with the bowl in his hand.

He was attracting everyone's attention as he stepped out. They were curiously looking at the gigantic bowl in his hands while Fatty Jin was feeling slightly antsy.

"Hurry! Hurry!" Fatty Jin could barely control his urge to taste the dish and was impatiently staring at Bu Fang, who was leisurely moving toward him.

A bowl of Fish Head Tofu Soup was placed in front of Fatty Jin, containing: milky-white fish soup; fat, tender, crystal-clear fish meat; and jade-like tofu. A rich fragrance was emanating from it.

"Here's your Fish Head Tofu Soup, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang simply said.

Everyone woke up from their stupor as they gathered around Fatty Jin while clamoring, pushing aside Bu Fang and Xiaoyi with their huge bodies.

Bu Fang did not mind and he expressionlessly went to curl up on his chair by the entrance. On the other hand, Ouyang Xiaoyi was infuriated. "This group of fatties! How dare they push me aside!"

She clenched her teeth and stared at the group of obese men for a while, feeling helpless as well. Then she angrily snorted and gave up.

Gulp!

The group of obese men were making gulping noises as they enviously watched Fatty Jin devour the Fish Head Tofu Soup with a look of happiness on his face.

"Old Jin, is this Fish Head Tofu Soup really that good?!" One of the obese man curiously asked. His appetite was already extremely worked up by the smell.

Fatty Jin spit out a fishbone from his mouth. With an enjoyable expression while squinting his eyes, he replied, "This fish soup is simply indescribably delicious. It's difficult to imagine that it's a

fish soup cooked with tofu. The fish meat is fat and tender; the hardness is just right and it felt like going through a massage when I bit down. The tofu is even more incredible, it completely disappeared the moment it entered my mouth! Oh and there was a prickling sensation when eating the fish meat; it should be the meat of a thunder-type spirit beast. I even felt an increase in spirit energy when I ate it. In summary, this bowl of fish soup is definitely worth it!"

Fatty Jin's incessant praises immediately satisfied the curiosity of this group of rich men. Finally, the obese man who asked the question seemed to have come to a decision. He turned toward Bu Fang and said, "Owner Bu, I want to order Fish Head Tofu Soup!"

Bu Fang lazily lifted his head and looked at the obese man, then he expressionlessly said, "No, your cultivation level is too low, so you can't order it."

The obese man was dumbfounded, and anxiously said, "Shop owner, I have money! I really have money!"

"If your cultivation level doesn't meet the requirement, you can't order it. This is the rule, it has nothing to do with money," Bu Fang simply said. He gave off an extremely cold aura, as if he had no interest in money at all. However, the truth was Bu Fang was suffering inside...

It was twenty crystals! Every single crystal was hard-earned money!

Bu Fang's stern rejection did not surprise the others. They did not continue to ask Bu Fang as they were well aware that Fang Fang's Little Store regarded its rules very highly.

Fatty Jin was very pleased. After happily paying his bill, he waved toward Bu Fang and was about to leave. However, before he could do that, he was stopped by the little loli and both of them whispered together for a while.

Then, the little loli came back with a smile on her face, as if she had just found money on the floor.

"Smelly boss, give me Egg-Fried Rice and Fish Head Tofu Soup!" the little loli charmingly shouted at Bu Fang as she stepped near the kitchen.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows and simply said, "Are you trying to freeload again?"

"I have money! Hurry up and cook for me!" the little loli haughtily implored in a whiny tone.

"Your cultivation level is not high enough, you can't order Fish Head Tofu Soup." Bu Fang stood up. If the little loli had money, then it was not a problem. From what he saw just now, she probably borrowed money from Fatty Jin.

"You liar! I already drank Fish Head Tofu Soup yesterday!" The little loli unhappily retorted. She thought that Bu Fang was

deliberately making things difficult for her.

Bu Fang paused for a moment, then replied, "There's no restriction when tasting a new dish. Didn't you notice that your true energy didn't increase at all even though you ate so much yesterday? I already removed the spirit energy within the dish, so that was why you could eat it."

Actually, the spirit energy within the fish soup was removed by the system. Since his cultivation level was too low and it would be dangerous to taste the dishes as it was, the system would remove the spirit energy when tasting any new dishes. Bu Fang only needed to sample the taste and texture of the dishes.

The little loli was at a loss for words. She noticed that Fatty Jin's true energy had really increased by a large amount after eating the Fish Head Tofu Soup, so the restriction was probably real.

"Then... then give me a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice," The little loli felt wronged as she miserably replied.

"Oh, give me a moment," Bu Fang simply said and returned to the kitchen.

After Bu Fang entered the kitchen, three figures appeared at the entrance of the store. One of them was the elegant third prince, Ji Chengxue, while the other two were the good-looking Xiao siblings.

When the three of them entered the store, they were immediately stunned when they saw the pouting loli sitting on a chair.

"Xiaoyi? What are you doing here? Old General Ouyang has been crazily looking for you! The entire imperial city has almost been thrown into chaos!" Xiao Yanyu dismayingly shouted when she saw the little loli.

It was only then that Ouyang Xiaoyi noticed the three of them. When she turned around and saw them, her expression immediately changed.

Chapter 22: The Intensely Aromatic Lees Fish

When Ouyang Xiaoyi saw Xiao Yanyu, she immediately turned around and ran toward her room. She wanted to escape the moment she realized the situation.

However, her opponent was Xiao Yanyu, the number one female prodigy in the imperial city and a fourth grade Battle-Spirit genius. Xiao Yanyu appeared beside the little loli, as if she had just teleported, and grabbed her by the clothes.

"Ah! Elder sister Yanyu, what a coincidence." Ouyang Xiaoyi blinked. When she realized that she could not escape, she looked at the frosty-looking Xiao Yanyu with an innocent expression.

Xiao Yanyu exasperatedly tapped the little loli on her head. "You brat, you've really grown! Where did you learn to run away from home! Do you realize how anxious your grandpa is?!"

Xiao Xiaolong and Ji Chengxue approached them with smiles on their faces. Xiao Xiaolong was even winking at Ouyang Xiaoyi. "Heh, the entire imperial city has been almost thrown into turmoil by the old general because of this little brat, but the culprit has actually been hiding here enjoying delicious food. I wonder if Old General Ouyang would vomit blood if he found out about this?"

"Xiaoyi, be a good girl. The old general was only thinking of you. You should go back. It's not good for the elderly to get angry." Ji Chengxue, dressed entirely in white, gently gazed at the loli.

Ouyang Xiaoyi grievously scratched her head and retorted, "I am not going back. Grandpa has been forcing me to practice martial arts everyday, when my tiny limbs aren't suitable for fighting. Besides, look how cute I am, isn't it a waste for me to practice martial arts?"

Xiao Yanyu was immediately tickled by what Ouyang Xiaoyi said; the both of them had gotten along since they were young, so she was familiar with her temperament.

"The Light Wind Empire is a martial country. Your grandfather, Old General Ouyang, came from a military background and served the Emperor during the expeditions. He naturally holds a higher regard for martial arts and wants his descendants to inherit the essence of his martial arts. Do you how many people in the entire empire desire to study under your grandfather? You're the only one who doesn't understand how lucky you are."

Ouyang Xiaoyi still felt wronged. She clamped her mouth shut and indignantly turned her face to the other side.

When they saw this, Ji Chengxue and Xiao Xiaolong immediately laughed. They were worried when they heard that she left home but now they could finally relax.

The third prince, Ji Chengxue, patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head and solemnly said, "Xiaoyi, you should go home. There's a lot of experts from the Sects hanging around in the imperial city these days. It's not the time for you to be unruly. If you were to be abducted by

one of them, it would be a huge handicap for your grandfather."

Ouyang Xiaoyi was still a little afraid of the elegant Ji Chengxue, so she blinked and grievously nodded.

At that moment, Bu Fang had already finished cooking the Egg-Fried Rice. After placing it at the window, his voice coldly sounded out, "Girl, your Egg-Fried Rice is ready."

"Ah! I am coming!" Hearing that her Egg-Fried Rice was ready, Ouyang Xiaoyi immediately brightened up. She excitedly jumped up and swiftly ran toward the window.

Placing the aromatic bowl of Egg-Fried Rice on a table, the starving Ouyang Xiaoyi ignored the others and began to devour the food in front of her.

"This brat... I can't believe she managed to find this place." Xiao Xiaolong had a gentle expression on his face as he watched Ouyang Xiaoyi gorge herself.

"Owner Bu, give me the improved Egg-Fried Rice," The third prince refinedly shouted toward the kitchen.

"Look for that girl if you're ordering," Bu Fang replied without leaving the kitchen.

Ji Chengxue, Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu were all stunned.

The little loli, who was busily eating, was startled. She lifted her face, which had a few grains of rice, and adorably said, "I am currently the waitress here. If you're ordering anything, just tell me."

"You? The waitress?" Xiao Xiaolong's eyes widened as he looked at Ouyang Xiaoyi with a weird expression on his face. "Owner Bu is fearsome indeed! He actually dared to hire this brat as a waitress, is he not afraid of that three barbarians from Ouyang family?"

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows and said, "Xiaoyi, it's not easy for Owner Bu to run a business. Don't cause trouble for others."

Ji Chengxue seriously nodded as well.

Ouyang Xiaoyi expressionlessly looked at the three of them, she was tempted to spit out the rice in her mouth at them. What did they mean by causing trouble for others? Was she that... fearsome?!

It was clearly that smelly boss' fault for threatening her and making her pay the debt with her body.

Swallowing the Egg-Fried Rice in her mouth, Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted and said, "Hurry up and tell me if you're ordering! I don't have the time to waste on you."

At that moment, the three of them finally acknowledged the fact

that Owner Bu had really made Ouyang Xiaoyi into a waitress. They were impressed with Bu Fang's courage as well. Everyone knew that the young mistress from Ouyang family was the number one troublemaker in the imperial city and creating trouble was one of her habits.

"Eh? There's a new dish?" Xiao Xiaolong gleefully exclaimed with widened eyes, when he saw the new dish on the menu.

Xiao Yanyu and Ji Chengxue's attentions were attracted as well. It was not a trivial matter for Owner Bu to produce a new dish.

"Lees Fish and Fish Head Tofu Soup?" Xiao Xiaolong read it out loud. Then his eyes squinted and the edge of his mouth was twitching. "Lees Fish and Fish Head Tofu Soup each costs twenty crystals per serving... Owner Bu's dishes are expensive as usual."

"The Fish Head Tofu Soup is really delicious! I tried it last night! It tastes really good! It's the best soup I've ever had! It's even better than the fatty uncle's 'Colored-Glass Seven-Stars Fish Soup'!" Ouyang Xiaoyi said as her eyes lit up.

Xiao Yanyu was astonished. The fatty uncle that Ouyang Xiaoyi mentioned was none other than the head chef in the imperial palace. Could this fish soup really compete with the fatty uncle's signature dish?

"I am really looking forward to it. Since Xiaoyi said that, then I'll give it a try... Give me Lees Fish." Ji Chengxue elegantly smiled with squinted eyes.

Ouyang Xiaoyi expressionlessly looked at him. What happened to the bond between people?

"Then I'll order Fish Head Tofu Soup," Xiao Yanyu softly said. Her voice was still as beautiful as the song of birds.

"I... I will still get the improved Egg-Fried Rice." Xiao Xiaolong was in agony... He did not foresee that Bu Fang would bring out a new dish, so he did not bring additional crystals with him and the store did not allow customers to have unpaid tabs either.

"Alright, wait for it." The little loli seriously memorized the orders of the trio, then headed toward the kitchen window and reported to Bu Fang.

"Alright, I see." Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded, then turned around to prepare the ingredients.

"Someone ordered the Lees Fish?" Bu Fang was slightly looking forward to it as well.

He walked toward the wine vat and unsealed the cloth cover. A rich fragrance immediately rushed out and a slight redness appeared on his face from the intoxicating smell.

Taking out the third grade Ice Sea Fish, he saw its pale blue meat was dyed pink from the marinating process. the Ice Sea Fish was completely covered in the rich and thick distillers grains.

Bu Fang removed the distillers grains from the exterior of the Ice Sea Fish, then placed it on the cutting board and made a few superficial cuts on it with a kitchen knife; their purpose was to fully maximize the taste of the fish meat during the steaming process.

He carefully placed the Ice Sea Fish on a plate, then placed it in a bamboo steamer and started steaming.

The entire process required around ten minutes, so Bu Fang already started to prepare the Fish Head Tofu Soup. After preparing the dish a few times he was already very familiar with cooking it and his efficient movements were filled with beauty.

While the Fish Head Tofu Soup was simmering Bu Fang began to cook the Egg-Fried Rice. The amount of time it took was short, so he quickly finished it.

Ouyang Xiaoyi once again used that unique style of hers to serve the dish and the corner of Bu Fang's mouth only widened. At that moment, a rich fragrance was already drifting out from the bamboo steamer. The fragrance was the smell of fish mixed with the aroma of wine, which was especially enticing.

When Ji Chengxue noticed the fragrance, his eyes immediately lit up as martial artists were naturally wine lovers. From the especially strong aroma coming from the wine, he knew that it was definitely a good wine. He began to salivate and was looking forward to it even more.

When the ten minutes countdown was up, Bu Fang lifted the cover of the bamboo steamer. Steam rose up from within and rushed out of the steamer; it was refreshing and slightly sweet. The water used in the steamer was rich in life energy because it was obtained from a dragon lake, that was said to be home to a seventh grade Drake, within the Dragon Spring Mountains.

Bu Fang carried out the Lees Fish and placed it on a table.

After the marinating and steaming process, the blue skin of the Ice Sea Fish had turned into pinkish-red; the skin was crystal-clear like jade and looked as if it was twinkling. Light pink distillers grains were spilling from the cut at its stomach, and the soup from the steaming process was both mellow and thick. The fish meat that was cut was split open during the steaming process, revealing the sparkling grease as it flowed out.

Bu Fang himself was swallowing his saliva while blushing red from the rich wine aroma.

Bu Fang did not let Ouyang Xiaoyi serve the dish. Since it was a new dish, he wanted to do it himself.

As he walked out of the kitchen, a rich wine aroma was emanating from the mouth of the Lees Fish and enveloped the entire store.

Chapter 23: It's Still The Intensely Aromatic Lees Fish

"The wine produced by these distillers grains should be good," Ji Chengxue seriously said as his eyes lit up. The aroma of the wine was so rich and mellow that it was comparable to the "Exquisitely Aromatic Intense Flames Wine" from the imperial palace.

As the Lees Fish was being served, everyone within the store turned to look at it. Even the little loli was curiously stretching her neck to see what it looked like, even though she firmly believed that the Lees Fish was not as delicious as the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

"It's beautiful..." Xiao Yanyu softly exclaimed when she saw the glowing Ice Sea fish, that radiated a faint pink glow. Her eyes were instantly attracted by the dish.

Due to the way it was cooked, the skin of the fish was compact and filled with elasticity. The distillers grains were spilling out from its stomach, emanating aroma and heat. From its mouth, a dense wine aroma was gushing out, making it seem as if the fish was swimming in the ocean.

"Here's your Lees Fish, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Ji Chengxue gently smiled as he impatiently picked up the chopsticks. However, even though he was eager to taste it, his movements were still methodical. He used the chopsticks to test the tightness of the fish's skin, and the resulting resistance made

him smile.

Only a chef that was able to precisely control the heat would be able to cook the fish so that the skin would have such elasticity. If the fish was steamed for too short, the skin would harden and the meat would become coarse. If the fish was steamed for too long, the skin would become sticky and the meat would turn into a syrup state.

With a slight push, the chopsticks pierced through the skin and penetrated the fish; a clear fish oil seeped out, accompanied by a rich fragrance.

He picked up a piece of fish near the gills; it was the most delicious part of the entire fish and had the highest quality. Most adepts at eating fish would choose this part.

Ji Chengxue's eyes lit up as the piece of fish entered his mouth. He felt as if he was not eating fish, but drinking a glass of wine; a wine aroma gushed out of the piece of fish and enveloped his mouth, but it was the fresh and tender piece of fish that was enclosing his taste buds instead.

The fish tasted refreshing and contained a slight coolness; the mixture of hot and cold created a contrasting effect and gave it a surprisingly good taste.

Ji Chengxue closed his eyes as he enjoyed the taste. He nodded as an intoxicated expression appeared on his face. Then he continued to pick up a large piece of fish and put it into his mouth.

"Owner Bu, this isn't an ordinary fish, right? That slight coolness was really vital; it brought the taste of the fish that was already delicious to the next level." Ji Chengxue said as he ate.

The others unconsciously swallowed their salivas as they watched the rapid movements of his chopsticks. Even the loli was staring at the Lees Fish, thinking that it looked really delicious...

"The fish used is the third grade Ice Sea fish from the northern water regions of the Light Wind Empire. The fish itself is extremely cold, but the coldness would reduce significantly after cooking. When combined with the heat from the distillers grains, the hot and cold would mix together and create a contrasting effect." Bu Fang mildly explained to Ji Chengxue, then he returned to the kitchen. The Fish Head Tofu Soup was still cooking; he did not want to ruin the dish.

Ji Chengxue suddenly realized why the taste was familiar. The Ice Sea Fish was a rare spirit beast, and even a prince like him could only rarely taste it. He did not think that he would be able to eat it in a secluded store within the imperial city.

"Everyone, give it a try. This fish is really delicious, and the taste of the distillers grains is extremely mellow as well. This dish is definitely worth the price," Ji Chengxue said with a smile when he noticed that everyone was staring at him.

Xiao Xiaolong unreservedly picked up a piece of fish with his chopsticks and put it into his mouth. On the other hand, Xiao

Yanyu was far more reserved; she waited until Xiao Xiaolong was done before she elegantly picked one up herself.

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes widened as he breathed out a mouthful of hot air filled with the aroma of wine. The fish was so delicious that it exceeded his expectations; he thought the mixture of hot and cold caused by the fish and the distillers grains was ingenious.

"Delicious!" Xiao Xiaolong was intoxicated.

The little loli swallowed her saliva and covertly reached out her chopsticks to pick up a piece of fish. However, she was intercepted by a smiling Ji Chengxue, while innocently pointing at the words on the menu.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was immediately enraged. She was only a second grade Battle-Master; she was not allowed to eat the dish!

Xiao Yanyu's image was far better than Xiao Xiaolong's, but her eyes lit up as well and she nodded.

Soon, a piece of Lees Fish was carved up by them. They all had faces filled with enjoyment, but it quickly changed into intoxicated expressions when Bu Fang took out the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

With a different cooking method from the Lees Fish, it let the three of them experience a feast of fish. Even though there were only two dishes, they felt as if it was already the ultimate pinnacle of cooking fish.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was pouting while feeling depressed. It was the first time she felt that her grandfather's insistence that she should practice martial arts was a correct decision. If she had put in more effort and became a third grade Battle-Maniac, then she would have been able to taste the dishes.

"Thank you for your patronage, the total is fifty crystals," Bu Fang expressionlessly said, reporting out their check.

After having their fill, they experienced the ultimate pain. Fifty crystals... That was more than what some lower level cultivators spend in an entire month.

"Owner Bu... your dishes are really expensive." Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was twitching.

"But it's worth the price, isn't it?" Bu Fang simply said as he expressionlessly looked at him.

"Fine, you're the shop owner. Your words make the most sense..." Xiao Xiaolong did not retort. He was only grumbling. As the son of a general, the price was still bearable.

The three of them left. While they were leaving, they tried to bring Ouyang Xiaoyi along with them, but were stopped by Bu Fang.

"Her working hours hasn't ended yet, so she can't leave. She can

go home after opening hours is over," Bu Fang simply said.

Xiao Yanyu and the others looked at Bu Fang with an odd expression, but they did not insist and left.

The little loli's face was filled with resentment as she sat on a chair. Her chin was resting on her hands, as if she was contemplating about life.

"Smelly boss, your dishes are really delicious, but why do you need to have a cultivation level restriction? I can't eat anything with my level... Are you trying to make me put in effort and cultivate?" Ouyang Xiaoyi grumbled.

"Good ingredients can be used to produce delicious tastes. The higher the grade of an ingredient, the greater the amount of spirit energy; the taste will also be even more delicious." Bu Fang expressionlessly explained, "However, with a greater amount of spirit energy in the ingredients, a lower leveled cultivator will die if they consume it."

"Hmph! I will properly cultivate when I go back. One day, I will eat all of the dishes in your store," Ouyang Xiaoyi laughing said and then stuck out her tongue at Bu Fang.

"Oh, you're welcome to do that. However, you'll still need to pay for your meal," Bu Fang earnestly said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was speechless.

After Ji Chengxue and the others left, Xiao Yanyu decided to inform Old General Ouyang about Ouyang Xiaoyi's location after much deliberation.

When Old General Ouyang got the news, he was dumbfounded. "Why would this brat become a waitress in a remote restaurant when she ran away from home?"

"The three of you... Go to that whatever store and bring your sister back! That brat, if I don't teach her a lesson this time, she might one day climb onto the emperor's head to pull his beard!"

Sitting high above, the stern-looking Old General Ouyang ordered the bear-like three siblings below.

"Yes!" The three siblings gave a muffled reply, then turned around and rushed out of the manor.

It was not a trivial matter for the three barbarians of Ouyang to move out together. Quite a number of interested parties were paying attention, but they were speechless when they found out that the the barbarians were only going to pick up their sister from a little restaurant.

Such a high-profile useless action truly tallied with the Ouyang family's style.

The current Bu Fang did not know that three humanoid beasts

were fiercely heading his way. And he was just curled up on his chair... basking in the sun.

Chapter 24: The Three Barbarians Of Ouyang... Are Really Invincible

The three barbarians of Ouyang are the three sons of the current head of the Ouyang family, Ouyang Zongheng. They had large backs and thick waists, resembling humanoid beasts. With their terrifying combat prowess and superior strength, they were considered humanoid destroyers within the imperial city and given the nickname of the three barbarians of Ouyang.

The eldest was Ouyang Zhen, the second was Ouyang Wu, and the youngest was Ouyang Di. When their given names were combined, it formed "really invincible". The three of them were triplets, so their appearances were quite similar. Their cultivation levels were around the same, at fourth grade Battle-Spirit. They once followed their father, General Ouyang Zongheng, out to the battlefield and were experienced with bloodshed.

Even though they were called the three barbarians of Ouyang and showed no respect to anyone within the imperial city, they were extremely obedient towards their only sister, Ouyang Xiaoyi. When they heard that their delicate and dainty sister was actually being confined within a little restaurant, they were enraged by the news.

As the three of them furiously headed for the restaurant, they were like a volcano that was about to erupt.

Zhao Ruge and Sun Qixiang, who were secretly monitoring the little restaurant, immediately noticed their movements and were gloating about it. Zhao Ruge was even sneering incessantly; he had

always wanted to find a chance to take revenge, but now he did not even need to do anything.

The three barbarians of Ouyang were called humanoid destroyers for a reason. Destruction followed everywhere they went. When the opportune time came, he would only need to step on that god damned deadpan shop owner's face.

If you followed the main road of the imperial city and walked past the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, then turned left after walking for a few dozen meters, you would find an alleyway. If you stepped inside, you would find Bu Fang's little store.

Bu Fang was curled up on his chair as he basked in the sun. The warm sunlight shining on him made him feel warm and sleepy.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was sitting nearby, bored. Since she was bored and wanted to quickly eat the Lees Fish and Fish Head Tofu Soup, she began to diligently cultivate.

As the three barbarians of Ouyang stepped into the alleyway, their auras directly spread out and created a strong wind that stirred the dust around them.

Boom boom boom!

The three of them were like wild beasts. Every single step they took made the ground quiver.

"Big brother! That little restaurant in front of us is the one responsible for confining our little sister! Let's go and kill its audacious owner!" Ouyang Wu said with a deep voice as he angrily glared.

Ouyang Di patted his chest and his beard fluttered as he roared, "Damn it! How dare he confine our precious little sister! I swear that if we don't tear him down by today, I will abstain from wine for three days!"

"Let's go and see who would dare to do this." Ouyang Zhen was the most levelheaded among the three. However, since it involved his sister, he was still more agitated than usual. As he recalled his little sister's adorable voice and appearance, and imagined how she might be suffering from unbearable torture at that very moment, he felt as if his heart was being torn to pieces.

The big black dog lying on the ground suddenly felt a series of tremor. It immediately opened its weary eyes and looked towards the three huge figures ferociously coming its way. It opened its mouth and yawned, then resumed its sleep.

Bu Fang was also woken up by the tremor. He puzzledly looked up and saw the three barbarians of Ouyang standing outside.

"Who are you people? Are you here to eat?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

"Bah! You fraud, who would want to eat here! We're here for our little sister!" Immediately, Ouyang Wu—who had the worst temper

—angrily shouted.

Bu Fang went into a daze, thinking, "Looking for your little sister? These three guys who look exactly like [Zhang Fei](#) must be mistaken. We're a decent restaurant, not a brothel."

Zhang Fei was a general who served under Liu Bei during the three kingdoms period. He was a burly man with a large beard.

"What little sister, we don't have any here." Since they were not there to eat, Bu Fang could not be bothered. He continued to curl up on his chair.

"How dare you try to trick us! I can feel my little sister's aura, right within your restaurant! If you don't hand her over, we'll level this little restaurant!"

Ouyang Di cracked his knuckles and made bone creaking sounds, as he maliciously looked at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at the three of them. He finally realized who they were looking for: it was that little loli, Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Bu Fang stood up and shouted towards Ouyang Xiaoyi who was cultivating nearby, "Hey brat, someone is looking for you."

Bu Fang's shout interrupted Ouyang Xiaoyi and work her up from the cultivation state. She surlily glared at Bu Fang, then she looked out of the store. She quickly noticed that her monster-like brothers

were standing outside.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's expression immediately changed. She knew that it was definitely Xiao Yanyu who revealed her location.

"Smelly boss! They are my brothers and they are here to bring me home. Help me stop them..." Ouyang Xiaoyi whispered, then she ran towards her room and disappeared.

Bu Fang blinked as he expressionlessly looked in Ouyang Xiaoyi's direction, and was filled with doubt.

He once again glanced at the three men standing outside.

He thought, "The cute and adorable Ouyang Xiaoyi and three ugly and burly savages... Are they really from the same gene pool? They have the same parents, but why do they look so different?"

"She doesn't want to see you," Bu Fang honestly said.

"What?! Are you trying to stop us? Damn it! How dare you confine my sister!" Ouyang Zhen was furious. His mind was filled with images of his little sister being tortured.

Unforgivable!

Boom!

The enraged Ouyang Di took a step first—creating a blast of wind—and appeared in front of Bu Fang; his hideous face was only inches away from Bu Fang's face. The wind was blowing Bu Fang's hair, causing it to flutter.

Bu Fang expressionlessly asked, "Are you trying to cause trouble?"

"So what if I am? I even want to tear down your store!" Ouyang Di loudly said as he angrily glared.

"Whitey, someone's causing trouble," Bu Fang calmly shouted.

"Troublemaker, you will be stripped as an example to others," A mechanical voice sounded out, then Whitey's gigantic body appeared behind Bu Fang; its mechanical eyes were blinking.

Ouyang Di's eyes narrowed as he grinned and said, "You even have helpers! Brothers, let's get him together!"

Ouyang Wu and Ouyang Zhen appeared behind Ouyang Di, and their auras surged forward like a stormy sea as it continuously assaulted the little store.

With their auras, an ordinary building would have already collapsed from the impact. However, Fang Fang's Little Store was completely unaffected.

"Interesting, there's really something strange with this store!"

The oldest brother thought.

Ouyang Zhen knitted his eyebrows as he glanced around his surroundings. Other than the slim, fair gigolo and that iron lump puppet, there was nothing else in the area... Oh, there was a big black dog sleeping at the entrance as well. His mind was filled with possibilities.

"It looks just like an ordinary store? How would such a store dare to confine my little sister?

"Could it be... This shop owner is hiding his abilities?! Or is there an expert from the Sects hiding within the store?"

Ouyang Zhen seriously looked at Bu Fang and became even more confused. Bu Fang was only a second grade Battle-Master, and was even weaker than his sister.

Just as Ouyang Zhen was skeptically thinking about the situation.

Bang! Bang!

As two loud noises sounded out, two gigantic figures flew out and shamefully crashed into a wall.

Ouyang Zhen was startled by the sound. When he turned toward its direction, his pupils constricted from what he saw.

He witnessed his brothers' thrown figures deeply stuck within the walls of the alleyway...

"Sorry, big brother! It's all an accident! An accident!" Ouyang Wu and Ouyang Di were coughing dust as they crawled out from the wall.

What an embarrassing situation: two of the three barbarians of Ouyang were actually thrown out as if they were balls.

Chapter 25: Why Is There No Wine When There Is Lees Fish?

The three barbarians of Ouyang got ready for a battle; they gathered the true energy within their body and gravely faced the puppet, Whitey, standing behind Bu Fang.

"Big brother, this puppet is very strong. We were thrown out before we even knew it!" Ouyang Di alertly looked at Whitey with wide eyes. He felt that the puppet was very powerful.

"How could a puppet be this capable? Could it be that it was created by an expert of the Sects? But how is that possible when they were so easily destroyed by our troops?" Ouyang Zhen thought.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the three humanoid beasts. He was not interested in what they were thinking, so he simply said, "I will let you off this time since you're that brat's brothers. However, there won't be a next time."

"Big brother! Is this gigolo threatening us?!" Ouyang Di asked, incredulous.

Within the imperial city, no one dared to threaten the three barbarians of Ouyang. They might not be playboys, but they were more terrifying than them. Everywhere they went, silence followed. No one wanted to attract their attention.

However, at that very moment, they actually met a reckless gigolo that dared to threaten them. Were the three barbarians of Ouyang the type of people that could be easily threatened by others?

"The dignity of the three barbarians of Ouyang will not be violated!" Ouyang Zhen fiercely said as he angrily glared.

The corner of Ouyang Di's mouth curled up. "This is our big brother! This is our big brother that led us in our domination within the imperial city! We will not yield!"

However, Ouyang Zhen's next line almost made Ouyang Di vomit blood.

Ouyang Zhen glanced at Whitey standing behind Bu Fang and said, "Young man, let's talk this over. If you hand over our little sister, we can forget about this."

Bu Fang expressionlessly replied, "You'll have to ask your sister. She didn't pay after eating so she has to work off her debt. She needs to work here for a week and this is only the first day."

"What?! Our sister didn't pay for the food?" The three barbarians of Ouyang were stunned, their mouths were wide open from surprise.

Ouyang Wu replied, "Then it's definitely because your food tastes bad. Otherwise, why wouldn't our sister pay up? Even though she's

a little unruly and fierce, she's still reasonable."

His words instantly caused Bu Fang to frown. As a chef, he hated it when others criticized the taste of his food, because it was the greatest insult to him.

"Side mission started: Conquer the palates of the three barbarians of Ouyang. Their arrogance has already offended the immense pride of the host. Please use your invincible culinary skills to completely slap them in the face. The system will forever be your strongest backing. Mission reward: winemaking technique."

The arrogant and serious voice of the system that resounded in his mind startled Bu Fang. He did not expect that a side mission would start just like that, especially when there was a reward involved.

"Hey, the three of you haven't even tasted my food. How can you say that my food tastes bad?" For the sake of the mission, Bu Fang sternly and seriously asked.

The three barbarians of Ouyang looked at each other, then Ouyang Zhen smirked and said, "So what if we say that your food tastes bad? What are you going to do about it?"

Bu Fang's expression turned very cold; he was angry.

The big black dog lying at the entrance lifted up its head and glanced at Bu Fang. Then it turned towards the three barbarians of

Ouyang and appeared to snick. After it was done, it went back to sleep.

"Aren't you looking for your sister? Fine, I'll give you a chance. Let's have a wager. Come into my store and taste my dishes. If it really tastes bad, then you can take away your sister. If it tastes good, then you'll go home naked," Bu Fang coldly said.

"Wager? Is this gigolo an idiot? If he can't even subdue our sister, what is he going to do with the three of us when we have bland taste buds?"

"Alright! We accept, but you have to keep to your word! After all, gigolos like to go back on their word," Ouyang Zhen said.

"Come in and order first," Bu Fang indifferently said.

The three barbarians of Ouyang looked at each other, then alertly stared at Whitey before entering the store. Once they came in, the three of them began to survey the surroundings.

"Even though the ambience isn't bad, isn't it way too small?" Ouyang Di complained as he wiggled his body.

For their humongous bodies to squeeze into the little store was indeed even more uncomfortable than Fatty Jin and his buddies, but it was still tolerable.

"Owner, do you have any wine? Give us an urn first," Ouyang Wu

shouted as he banged the table. This fellow had already completely become a customer.

"I am sorry, but we don't provide wine," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

"How can a restaurant not have any wine? Are you kidding me! Forget it, I'll see what you have here," Ouyang Wu scornfully glanced at Bu Fang, then turned toward the menu on the wall.

Then... It was as if time had stopped moving, and the store became extremely silent.

"The Lees Fish costs twenty crystals? The Fish Head Tofu Soup is twenty crystals as well? A bowl of Egg-Fried Rice can be sold for ten crystals too?" Ouyang Zhen was crude, but he was not an idiot. The price was... slightly scary.

"A plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables and a bowl of Dry-Mixed Noodles each costs a hundred gold coins..." Ouyang Wu was dumbfounded.

"Now I know why our little sister couldn't pay the bill, that's because this store is a scam!" Ouyang Di angrily roared while banging the table.

Bu Fang frowned and said, "Are you going to order? Your sister is right within this store. If you win the wager, I'll let you take her back."

"Hmph! For the sake of our sister, I'll do it even if it's a scam! I'll have Lees Fish!" Ouyang Zhen declared.

"Owner, why are you not selling wine when you have distillers grains!" Ouyang Wu unhappily asked with widened eyes.

Bu Fang expressionlessly replied, "The distillers grains are for making Lees Fish, not for making wine."

Ouyang Wu was slightly confused. "This... What's the difference? You can make wine as long as you have distillers grains, right?"

"Then give me Lees Fish as well!" Ouyang Wu said.

"Our store has only one Lees Fish left, please order other dishes," Bu Fang simply said.

"Ah! If it were not for my sister, I would just smash your store right this instant!" Ouyang Wu was annoyed. He ordered the improved Egg-Fried Rice in the end.

Ouyang Di did not say anything and only ordered Fish Head Tofu Soup.

After the three of them finished ordering, Bu Fang nodded and said, "Please wait."

Then, Bu Fang entered the kitchen and began to cook.

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Zhao Ruge was sitting on a sandalwood chair as he listened to his underling's report. Then with a faint smile on his face, he said, "You are saying that the three barbarians of Ouyang have entered the store?"

"It looks like the store is not far from destruction. Even though the three barbarians are brainless idiots, their cultivation levels are quite high. Tearing down a little store shouldn't be an issue. Call up the others, we'll go and watch a good show." Zhao Ruge opened up his paper fan and elegantly smiled as he left the manor with his servants.

Sun Qixiang had already received the report of his servants. His sesame-sized eyes narrowed as he coldly smirked. "How dare you sabotage my food with chilli and even make me nude streak in public. I'd like to see how you're going to run your business after antagonizing the three barbarians of Ouyang."

Except for Zhao Ruge and Sun Qixiang, the rest of the people who received the news hurriedly headed for the little store with grim expressions. They all knew about the terror that were the three barbarians of Ouyang. Xiao Yanyu was even slightly upset. She did not think that Old General Ouyang would directly send them out. If something happened to Fang Fang's Little Store, then it would all be her fault.

At that moment, a lot of people rushed towards Fang Fang's Little

Store.

They all assumed that Fang Fang's Little Store was going to be destroyed by the three barbarians of Ouyang...

Chapter 26: Bu Fang Whose Culinary Skills Were Severely Challenged

"Big brother, do you think this gigolo is an idiot? We're wagering with him, but we're the ones who decide whether it's delicious. Even if his dishes are really delicious, we can just say that it tastes bad and he can't do anything about it! At that time, he'll still need to obediently hand our sister over," Ouyang Di covertly whispered to the stern-looking Ouyang Zhen.

Ouyang Zhen gave a sidelong glance to his third brother, then snorted and said, "With our taste buds, even the most delicious cuisine in the imperial palace tasted the same. Do you think we even tell whether it tastes good or not? Aren't you just talking crap?"

"That gigolo will definitely lose this wager," Ouyang Zhen triumphantly said as his beard fluttered.

"I knew Big brother is the smartest among us; you understood immediately. It's only because we drank too much and lost our sense of taste. Except for wine, everything tastes like plain water. It's really uncomfortable, though," Ouyang said with a sigh.

"Second brother! Don't worry about it. After we pick up Xiaoyi, I'll let you drink the "Exquisitely Aromatic Intense Flames Wine" that the emperor bestowed to me! It will definitely make you feel as if your entire body is on fire!" Ouyang Zhen said as he patted Ouyang Wu's shoulders.

"Heh! Thank you, big brother! With our palate, only wine can satisfy us now!" Ouyang Wu grinned.

While the three of them were chatting, Bu Fang was already preparing the dishes in the kitchen.

The Ice Sea fish needed to be marinated in advance when cooking Lees Fish, and he only prepared two fishes the night before. He already cooked one previously and was going to leave the other one for dinner. However, since someone else ordered the dish, he took it out to cook it.

After removing the distillers grains from the exterior of the fish, Bu Fang made two small cuts on its body then placed it on a plate inside the bamboo steamer.

The Egg-Fried Rice and Fish Head Tofu Soup were being prepared as well.

The smell of the Egg-Fried Rice was very fragrant; it drifted out from the kitchen and enveloped the three barbarians of Ouyang like silk, causing them to continuously sniff.

"It smells so good! It looks like this gigolo has some skills after all." Ouyang Di said with an intoxicated expression.

The other two remained silent, but they did not think much of it. No matter how fragrant it was, there was no point; with their bland taste buds, everything tasted the same.

As Ouyang Xiaoyi was not around, Bu Fang had to personally serve the Egg-Fried Rice. He placed it on the table and said, "Erm... Whoever's Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal."

As the three brothers looked similar to Zhang Fei, Bu Fang—who suffered from mild face blindness—was already having difficulty differentiating them.

"This is mine." Ouyang Wu narrowed his eyes, got closer to the Egg-Fried Rice and deeply breathed in. The rich fragrance immediately filled his nasal cavity. He honestly thought it smelled really good.

Ouyang Wu was unable to endure it any longer and scooped up a spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth. As the silk-like egg liquid entered his mouth, it immediately solidified. When it mixed together with the pearl-like rice grains, it was like they were jumping around his mouth, giving him a peculiar feeling.

"Guru."

After swallowing the Egg-Fried Rice in his mouth, Ouyang Wu's face turned expressionless. Even though the texture was excellent, it had no taste at all.

Ouyang Zhen and Ouyang Di tried a bite as well, and they both frowned after trying.

"What the hell is this? There's no taste at all... Is this supposed to taste good?" Ouyang Zhen pursed his lip together, then threw the spoon onto the table and complained.

Bu Fang was startled, thinking. "How is this possible? How could the improved Egg-Fried Rice taste bad?"

This was the first time he met a customer that improved Egg-Fried Rice was unable to subdue.

Bu Fang smelled the fragrance of the Egg-Fried Rice in the air; it was so rich that it was as if a piece of silk was caressing his face. "There shouldn't be any problems with the taste!"

"Is it because their taste buds are unique?" Bu Fang thought.

"Gigolo, you should just quickly throw in the towel and return our sister. You will not be able to cook anything that can impress us," Ouyang Di gloatingly said with a smile.

The fact that the three of them only ate a single bite each and did not finish the Egg-Fried Rice was greatly out of Bu Fang's expectations.

Even the big black dog lying at the entrance lifted its head and interestedly watched the scene unfold in the little store.

"Please wait." Bu Fang's expression was extremely grim. He felt that his culinary skills was being severely challenged.

He returned to the kitchen and the Fish Head Tofu Soup was ready to be served. He carefully poured the soup into a blue and white porcelain bowl. The Lees Fish needed a few more minutes, so he served the fish soup first.

"Here's your Fish Head Tofu Soup, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang solemnly said.

The fragrance of the Fish Head Tofu Soup was not inferior to Egg-Fried Rice in the slightest. The refreshing smell of the fish mixed with the faint fragrance of the tofu was like a fluttering gauze touching their skin. The milky-white fish soup and crystal-clear tofu were giving off a faint radiance under the lighting.

Just the appearance of the dish fascinated the three brothers, triggering their appetite. However, after they finished drinking the fish soup, they became expressionless, as if they had just drank a bowl of tasteless plain water.

"No! Your fish soup doesn't taste good," The Ouyang brothers said in unison while shaking their head.

"Interesting." Bu Fang remained expressionless, but he was extremely serious at that moment. He meaningfully glanced at the three brothers and returned to the kitchen. He still had one more dish left and if it did not impress them, then it would only mean one thing.

"There's definitely something wrong with their sense of taste."

As a chef, Bu Fang was confident of his own dishes. Even though the reactions of the three brothers surprised him, it did not affect his confidence in his culinary skills.

Taking the Lees Fish out of the bamboo steamer, the rich wine aroma instantly gushed out and filled up the entire store.

The triumphant Ouyang brothers sitting in the store suddenly stiffened, as if their souls had been taken.

"Bi... Big brother! What a rich... wine aroma!" Ouyang Di felt his mouth gone dry and his eyes widened like saucers. The moment the wine aroma had emerged, he was instantly captivated.

Ouyang Wu and Ouyang Zhen were feeling exactly the same as he did. They felt as if they had ants in their pants, evoking their desire to drink wine.

"This is definitely the smell of a good wine! Only the "Exquisitely Aromatic Intense Flames Wine" from the imperial palace could compete with this! Could this store really have such a high grade wine?" Ouyang Zhen continuously swallowed his saliva, as he impatiently waited.

The three of them were staring at the kitchen entrance, when a slim figure emerged.

Bu Fang was extremely serious as he slowly carried out the Lees

Fish.

However, three pairs of eyes—that seemed as if they were looking at prey—startled him. "What the hell?!"

"Here's your Lees Fish, please enjoy your meal." Bu Fang glanced at the three of them, then placed the Lees Fish on the table and solemnly said.

"How is it Lees Fish? It's not wine?!" The Ouyang brothers cried out in unison, revealing the disappointment in their voice.

"I already said that we don't serve wine," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

"Gigolo, you've already lost. You can't impress us without wine. You should just obediently hand over our sister," Ouyang Wu sighed and said while disappointedly looking at the Lees Fish.

"You should try it first," Bu Fang calmly said with an adamant expression.

At that moment, Ouyang Xiaoyi—who had already run away to her room just now—suddenly walked out of her room with a worried expression. "Abandoning the smelly boss like this seems to be a little dishonorable... What if he got beaten up by my brothers?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi was well aware of her brothers' temperament and

was feeling slightly guilty.

"Smelly boss, you must hang on, you mustn't die before I get there," Ouyang Xiaoyi prayed in her heart as she swiftly ran out of her room to the dining area.

She covertly peeked into the dining area from behind the door, but the very first sight made her eyes open wide with amazement.

Chapter 27: Do You Have A Grudge Against Dogs?

Ouyang Xiaoyi was hiding behind the door as she peeked into the dining area. She saw that her three barbaric elder brothers were actually gobbling down the plate of Lees Fish.

That was right!

They were behaving exactly like when a normal person ate Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice. The look of happiness on their faces were giving Ouyang Xiaoyi goosebumps all over her arms.

It was precisely because Ouyang Xiaoyi knew the situation that she was even more surprised and amazed. Even though she would agree that Bu Fang's dishes were extremely delicious, her brothers had a poor sense of taste. How could they be impressed by his dishes?

"Oh! I know! The Lees Fish has a strong wine aroma... That's because the wine aroma from the distillers grains had completely permeated into the fish, causing the fish to taste like wine. That's why my brothers who can only taste wine were subdued!"

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up and she was completely sure her hypothesis was right.

As Bu Fang watched the three of them gorging on the dish, a relieved expression finally appeared on his face. Sure enough...

there was no one that could resist gourmet food.

"Congratulations, my host, for completing the side mission: Conquer the palates of the three barbarians of Ouyang. The reward will be dispensed later. Young man, you have advanced further on your road to becoming the God of Cooking. Work hard," The system's solemn voice sounded out in Bu Fang's mind.

An awkward smile appeared on Bu Fang's face.

It was the first time that the three barbarians of Ouyang experienced the taste of gourmet food, and it was the first time that they tasted food that could open up all the pores on their body. The fish was simply too delectable.

It contained a trace of coolness that seeped into their minds, and mixed within the coolness was a rich wine aroma that radiated heat. The mixture of hot and cold harmonized with each other and instantly assaulted their almost necrotic sense of taste, as if a dead tree was coming back to life.

They experienced a taste... a taste that they could never forget for the rest of their life.

"Why is it all gone? How dare you rascals snatch your big brother's food!" Ouyang Zhen was still in a daze when he realized that the entire fish was gone; the last piece of the fish was taken by Ouyang Di.

The fish bone was snatched by Ouyang Wu and he was licking it while holding it in his hands.

And so, an entire fish was picked clean by them.

The three of them were reluctantly staring at the plate as they licked their lips and fingers, while trying to recall the wondrous feeling from awhile ago.

"Have you finished eating? I won the wager, right? Then the three of you need to admit that my dishes are delicious," Bu Fang indifferently and yet confidently said, as he expressionlessly looked at them.

The three barbarians of Ouyang immediately froze, while silently cursing. They were caught up in the excitement just now and completely forgot about their wager with Bu Fang... It was really because the Lees Fish was too delicious, as if it was a dish specially created just for them.

"Ehem... Gigolo, how should I say? Even though we finished the dish, but... Tsk, tsk, tsk. It's still no good, your fish wasn't delicious enough," Ouyang Zhen said as he licked his fingers.

"If it wasn't delicious enough, then why are you licking your fingers with a satisfied expression?" Bu Fang expressionlessly thought.

"That's right! Your dish tasted really ba... Uh, even though the

taste was okay, it wasn't delicious enough!" Ouyang Di's eyes did a little turn and he stiffly said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi, who was hiding behind the door, covered her face with her hands from embarrassment. Only her foolish brothers would be able to tell a barefaced lie in such an obvious manner.

"That's right! Gigolo, that's why you've lost! Now hurry up and hand our sister over! Otherwise, we'll tear down your store!" Ouyang Wu menacingly threatened as he banged the table. However, when he used his tongue to lick his lips, the menacing part became comedic.

Bu Fang was still expressionlessly standing there. He knew that the three idiots were planning to go back on their word.

"Whitey, strip them. Take the adequate amount of crystals and throw them out," Bu Fang simply said. Then he collected the plates on the table and turned around to head back into the kitchen.

However, when Bu Fang turned around, he immediately saw Ouyang Xiaoyi hiding behind the door. He was slightly startled, then expressionlessly walked by her and entered the kitchen.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes widened as she looked at the serene Bu Fang. She was confused by his reaction. Why was he not afraid of her brothers going berserk? Even they were afraid of themselves when they went berserk!

However, in the next moment, the scene that unfolded in the store made her completely speechless.

She saw that adorable white puppet—with a potbelly—throwing out her three brothers with a single slap each. During the instant they were thrown out, they were completely stripped naked with only a loincloth to cover their private parts.

"Ah!" Ouyang Xiaoyi screamed as she quickly covered her eyes. "How filthy! That's simply too filthy! I didn't know Whitey was like this!"

Ouyang Xiaoyi was stunned, but the three barbarians of Ouyang were even more stunned. They shivered as a gust of cold wind brushed against their bodies. The three brothers were looking at the iron puppet with fear in their eyes.

"My god! Big brother, this fellow is really terrifying! We were stripped before we could even react!" Ouyang Di was unnerved. During that instant, he felt as if he was facing his grandfather.

Their grandfather was Old General Ouyang Qi, a sixth grade Battle-Emperor! Could an iron puppet from a little store actually have strength equivalent to a Battle-Emperor?

"[God damned dogs](#)! When did such a terrifying thing appear within the imperial city!" Ouyang Zhen could not help but curse out loud.

日了狗 - The literal meaning of this phrase means "have sex with a dog". It is a swear word used when someone experienced an

unlucky situation.

The big black dog lying at the entrance suddenly opened its eyes and instantly focused its sharp gaze on Ouyang Zhen.

"God damned dogs? Do you have a grudge against dogs?"

Ouyang Zhen's face immediately turned white. He felt a coercion—so large that it felt unstoppable—instantly pressing down upon him. Even that last piece of loincloth covering his private parts exploded and turned into dust.

A dull sound sounded out...

Ouyang Zhen was sloppily kneeling on the ground with a lifeless look in his eyes, as if he had collapsed from exhaustion.

Ouyang Wu and Ouyang Di were shocked by the sudden turn of events. They fearfully looked at the store, picked up their big brother and quickly retreated... The enemy was too strong for them; it was better to call for reinforcements.

The three of them fled, leaving the floor full of dust.

The big black dog disdainfully glanced at the direction they went, stretched out its tongue to lick its beautiful fur, then snorted and went back to sleep.

Zhao Ruge and the rest were standing guard outside the alleyway, expectantly waiting for the three barbarians of Ouyang to tear down that abominable store. However, after waiting for some time, they discovered three naked figures miserably running out.

Two of them had a loincloth covering their private parts so they were still okay, but what did the one in the middle do? Why was he the only one that was totally naked?

Everyone was looking at each other, and saw the horror in the other's eyes.

"What the hell... Even the three barbarians of Ouyang were thrown out? How is that store so fearsome? Is he not afraid of the Ouyang family's retaliation?" Sun Qixiang's tiny eyes widened as he exclaimed in astonishment.

Zhao Ruge knitted his eyebrows and a serious expression appeared on his handsome face. He was not Sun Qixiang, he thought much further than that. It was only a little restaurant that opened in the alleyways of the imperial city, but was able to throw out the three barbarians of Ouyang who were within the imperial city. Was the puppet really that strong? Was the store really that simple?

"No! This store definitely isn't simple! The current situation in the imperial city is unstable, and there are plenty of experts from the Sects hiding around... For a store that can defeat the three barbarians of Ouyang to suddenly appear, there's definitely something going on!"

Zhao Ruge heavily breathed in, then slowly breathed out. As the son of the Minister of the Left, he thought more and saw more. He did not dare to underestimate this little store any more.

"God damn it! That rascal escaped again! No, I must definitely take revenge! I will shut down this store!" Sun Qixiang bellowed!

Zhao Ruge glanced at him as his eyes slightly narrowed, and an enigmatic smile appeared on his face.

The Xiao siblings and the third prince, Ji Chengxue, had arrived as well, and saw the Ouyang brothers nude streaking from a distance.

"Looks like we don't have to intervene after all. Owner Bu is really not an ordinary person." As Ji Chengxue watched the fleeing figure of the three barbarians of Ouyang, a gentle but pensive smile appeared on his face.

As a female prodigy, Xiao Yanyu's thinking was deeper than ordinary people. Her eyebrows were knitted together for an instant, then quickly relaxed.

They did not choose to enter Fang Fang's Little Store and turned back. Sun Qixiang and Zhao Ruge left as well; they did not dare to rashly take action without properly understanding the store.

After washing the tableware, Bu Fang returned to the dining

area. He petted Whitey's body and praised it. Then he started to get ready to close the shop for the day.

"Sme... Smelly boss, I think I'll go back first. I am afraid that my grandfather might get angry and send troops to tear down this place." Ouyang Xiaoyi carefully said. She was terrified of this smelly boss; he might just strip her for disagreeing with him.

Bu Fang was slightly startled, then nodded and said, "Today's business hours is over, you can go back now. However, you need to come back tomorrow. You're free once you've worked for seven days."

Ouyang Xiaoyi nodded and carefully left the store, then quickly ran back to the Ouyang manor.

Bu Fang expressionlessly yawned and went back into the kitchen. He wanted to try the reward that he had just gotten and the dish he forgot to make the previous night... the golden shumai.

Chapter 28: Nine Brewing Methods And The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine

As the night fell, the two crescent moons called out to each other in the night sky and radiated moonlight like a veil across the sky.

The imperial city of the Light Wind Empire— one of the most busy cities in the Hidden Dragon Continent—was still awake in the middle of the night. The streets were lively with people and bright lights could be seen throughout the city.

The Ouyang manor was situated between the two main roads of the imperial city. It was one of the two manors located right outside of the imperial palace. The other was the Xiao manor.

Within the main hall of the Ouyang manor, the three barbarians of Ouyang were toplessly kneeling on the ground with their heads lowered. They did not dare to lift their heads to look at the elderly man sitting above.

Below the elderly man, there was a hairy middle-aged man helplessly standing there.

"Are you an idiot! You bastard, look at those three sons of yours! Running naked in public within the imperial city? Why did I even bother to raise an unfilial son like you? You're disgracing me even when you're this old! I've completely lost all of my face thanks to the lot of you!"

The elderly Ouyang was very furious and his voice could be heard throughout the Ouyang manor. He pointed at Ouyang Zongheng while scolding him and his saliva was spraying all over his son. His finger was even poking Ouyang Zongheng's forehead, causing him to stumble with each poke.

Ouyang Zongheng, a general of the Light Wind Empire, could only hold back his anger while being scolded by his father. He dared to get angry but did not dare to show it. He could only vent out his frustrations on his disappointing sons.

"Are the three of you stupid? I told you to fetch Xiaoyi, not run naked in public! You've really made me lose face! When you're outside, don't say that you're from Ouyang family!" Ouyang Zongheng shouted.

Running naked in public was an incident that had made them lose a lot of face. A few days ago, he was still laughing at that wily Minister of the Left because his son ran naked in public. And now, his sons did it as well and even went as a group. He had completely lost face in front of the other court officials.

The three barbarians of Ouyang did not dare to say anything. With their father and grandfather still angry, anything they said would be wrong.

Just when the tension within the main hall had reached its climax, a small head peeked in through the entrance and looked in. It was Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Grandpa, dad... Xiaoyi has returned!" Ouyang Xiaoyi leaped out from behind the door with a smile on her face.

When the elderly Ouyang saw Ouyang Xiaoyi, his expression immediately became gentle and kind. He walked towards her and said, "Oh my, my little precious girl. You've really frightened your grandpa. I even thought you were kidnapped by a bad person. Come, let your grandpa see if you're hurt anywhere. Oh my, look at you, you've become skinnier..."

The elderly Ouyang lovingly patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head with affection in his eyes.

Ouyang Zongheng was full of smiles as well. "My obedient daughter, don't run away from home anymore. Right now, it's not safe within the imperial city. Let's wait until this period is over, and father will run away from home together with you."

The three barbarians of Ouyang expressionlessly watched this scene unfold. At the same time, they felt this world was filled with corruption. Why was it that even though they were siblings, the difference between their treatment was this large?

Ouyang Zongheng felt their gaze and immediately put on a straight face. He snorted and said, "What are you looking at? Hurry up and go train. If you don't reach fifth grade Battle-King by this year, you're really going to get it."

The three barbarians of Ouyang dejectedly ran away as fast as they could. As they were even leaving, they were even making eyes

towards their little sister.

Slap!

The elderly Ouyang put on a straight face, then slapped the Ouyang Zongheng, who was putting on airs, on his head and said, "What are you looking at? Hurry up and go train. If you don't reach sixth grade Battle-Emperor by this year, you're really going to get it."

When Ouyang Xiaoyi saw this scene, she immediately laughed out loud. Then she grabbed onto the elderly Ouyang's beard and continued to giggle.

...

Within the kitchen, Bu Fang was calmly retrieving a bag of flour from a cabinet. The flour was prepared by the system and was of the highest quality.

He was preparing the other reward, the Golden Shumai.

The shumai was not foreign to Bu Fang. It was a type of snack that had fillings wrapped in dough and cooked in a bamboo steamer. It could be eaten for breakfast, was shaped like a pomegranate, and was tasty. It had both the good points of xiaolongbao and gyoza.

The skin of the shumai did not need to go through fermentation,

so Bu Fang placed the kneaded dough on one side. According to the recipe provided by the system, there was some difference in the cooking method of this Golden Shumai compared to the traditional shumai. The ordinary Golden Shumai would have some pumpkin powder added within the flour, which resulted in the golden color of the shumai.

However, Bu Fang did not agree with this method. The reason was that adding the pumpkin powder would cause the flour to lose its texture and did not improve the taste of the dish.

That was why he took the egg yolk of a few third grade Thunderstorm Pigeons and added them into the flour mixture. By doing so, the skin of the shumai would have the fragrance of the Thunderstorm Pigeon's egg and the golden color.

The next step was the filling of the shumai. There was actually no standard ingredient for the shumai, and the recipe which the system provided was for meat fillings.

"The meat chosen is the tenderloin of the Flame Pig from the Wildlands. The meat is filled with rich spirit energy, and is fat but not greasy. It is an excellent meat ingredient," The system solemnly introduced.

Bu Fang nodded and took out the tenderloin of the Flame Pig from the freezer. The surface of the meat was actually covered by a thin layer of fat; distinct marbling could be seen on it.

After using the kitchen knife to tenderize the pork, Bu Fang

began to cut it. His cutting speed was very fast and every cut he made was as if it was carefully calculated. Each piece of pork ended up as thin as the wings of a cicada.

He did not chose to dice the entire piece of pork; one half of it was diced and the other half was sliced. Then he mixed the diced meat with diced vegetables that were rich in spirit energy, and used the pork slices—that were as thick as the wings of cicada—to wrap them.

Once it was wrapped by the skin of the shumai with an opening left at the top, a small and exquisite shumai was made.

Bu Fang's speed was extremely fast: he only needed around twenty seconds to wrap a shumai. With nine shumais per bamboo steamer, Bu Fang quickly completed them and placed them into the bamboo steamer.

The bamboo steamer was provided by the system as well; it was made using bamboo that was slightly purple.

While waiting for the shumai to be done, Bu Fang received his other reward: the winemaking technique.

Wine was actually another type of gourmet food. With good wine, the aroma itself was capable of intoxicating people.

Bu Fang had always wanted to provide wine within the store. However, the system had never made any mentions about it. He

did not expect that he would suddenly receive the winemaking technique as a reward.

"Winemaking technique: the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is produced using the Nine Brewing Method. The brewer's yeast is made in December and thawed in January. Then 15 Kg of the yeast, fifty liters of spirit spring water, and the high quality Dragon Blood Kaoliang—from the northern part of the Light Wind Empire—is used. Distill it once every three days, and once it has been distilled a total of three times, the wine is ready."

"This winemaking technique... It sounds really impressive." Bu Fang did not really understand, but was still impressed by the sound of it. But with such a complicated process, how long would it take to finally finish this?

"The system has provided the enhanced version of the Nine Brewing Method, which quickens the fermentation time and wine production speed. With a cycle per day, only three days are required to produce the wine."

Bu Fang went into a daze, then nodded. If it only required three days to produce the wine, then he could still look forward to it. He was getting slightly restless just thinking about it.

However, while he was daydreaming about the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, the Golden Shumai was successfully completed.

Bringing his attention back, Bu Fang carefully carried out the purple bamboo steamer and slowly lifted up the lid.

The hazy steam rushed out and filled the air with a refreshing sweet smell. Within that steam, a golden ray of light pierced through. Then right in front of Bu Fang's eyes, this ray of light gradually bloomed and instantly filled his eyes.

It was in a bright and dazzling gold!

Chapter 29: The Little Store In The Rain

The Golden Shumai looked as if it was made of gold. The rich fragrance—blended with a clear bamboo scent—rushed towards Bu Fang and instantly drowned him within the sea of fragrance. Its sparkling, radiant skin looked like it caught on fire. There seemed to be flames burning, but upon a closer look they would disappear.

The nine Golden Shumai were inside the purple bamboo steamer. They were so beautiful and flawless that they could be mistaken as artworks.

As the fillings were first wrapped by a thin layer of pork, both the pork and the skin were deeply welded together after steaming. The filling was a mixture of diced meat and spirit vegetables that emanated an unparalleled fragrance. The moisture of the vegetables mixed together with the fat of the Flame Boar created an aromatic soup that rippled within the shumai.

Bu Fang was eagerly looking at the Golden Shumai; his appetite was triggered by the rich fragrance. Using the purple bamboo chopsticks provided by the system, Bu Fang picked up one of the shumai. He did not immediately put it into his mouth, but first sucked out the soup inside.

The soup—that was slightly gold—was a concoction of the spirit vegetables, meat from the Flame Boar, and purple bamboo. As it entered his mouth, it instantly enveloped his taste buds and filled his mouth with a rich fragrance.

Bu Fang was absolutely delighted. After drinking the soup, he lightly took a bite of the shumai. The skin was extremely tender, and since it was mixed with the eggs of the Thunderstorm Pigeon, it contained a slight numbness. It was not strong, but when combined with the slight burning sensation from the meat of the Flame Boar, it had a unique taste.

It was so delicious that Bu Fang almost wanted to swallow his own tongue.

Soon, all nine shumai were completely eaten by Bu Fang and he was memorably licking his lips. Delicious food would always improve a person's mood.

After cleaning up the kitchen, Bu Fang was preparing to brew the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. The brewer's yeast was provided by the system and had already gone through the necessary fermentation process. He only needed to directly use it.

He placed the earthen jar—that had half a human's height—within the environment simulation cabinet and his job was done. He only needed to wait for three days and the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine would be completed. Bu Fang was actually looking forward to this wine.

After he completed everything, it was already midnight. Bu Fang yawned and was ready to sleep. As a chef, he needed to have high quality sleep. He would only have a healthy body if he sleep and woke up early every day.

The next morning.

Bu Fang opened up the store for business. The weather was not good that day. Dark clouds had covered up the sky and there was no sunlight.

"It looks like it's going to rain," Bu Fang muttered to himself as he looked at the sky while standing at the entrance.

Blackey lifted its head and glanced at him, then lay down and continued to sleep. He was so lazy that he did not want to move; it seemed that he was not going to seek shelter even if it started to rain.

Bu Fang was surprised as well. Even though the big black dog was living the life of a pig, why was it not becoming fatter? If a pig was raised like this, it would have already doubled its size, and yet this dog still maintained its slim figure.

"I think I'll improve your diet today," Bu Fang said as he stroked Blackey's unblemished fur.

Then Bu Fang returned to the kitchen and began to practice his culinary skills. He prepared a serving of Golden Shumai, and used the rest of the filling to cook a dish of diced meat fried with diced vegetables.

As Bu Fang carried out the aromatic dish out of the kitchen, the eyes of the big black dog were suddenly emanating an intense

brightness as it stared at the bowl in his hands.

"Meat! There's meat!" The big black dog thought and eagerly stretched out its tongue.

Seeing Blackey devouring the food from the bowl, an awkward smile appeared on Bu Fang's face. He pulled a chair towards the entrance and curled up on it. As there was no warmth from the sunlight, Bu Fang was staring off into space.

Soon, Fatty Jin and his buddies arrived. As they stepped into the store, they immediately noticed the new dish on the menu, the Golden Shumai.

"Oh my, Owner Bu, is that a new dish? Shumai? Is it for breakfast?" Fatty Jin's eyes lit up and he asked Bu Fang.

"Yes." Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded, then stood up and got ready for work. The arrival of Fatty Jin signified the start of the busy day.

When Fatty Jin and his buddies saw the freshly made Golden Shumai, they were all stunned. The rich fragrance made them eager to taste the dish.

Without a doubt, Bu Fang's dishes were the finest.

Fatty Jin's mouth was covered with oil as he gobbled down the dish. The others whose cultivation levels had not reached third

grade Battle-Maniac could only watch while drooling.

"Owner Bu's culinary skills is truly superb! This Golden Shumai is simply too delicious! It really suits my taste! Haha!" After finishing the shumai, Fatty Jin wanted to order another serving but was heartlessly rejected by Bu Fang.

Each serving of shumai cost ten crystals, but that was nothing for the prosperous Fatty Jin. However, as the quantity of the serving barely filled up his stomach, he ordered other dishes as well.

After a while, Fatty Jin and his buddies left Fang Fang's Little Store feeling satisfied. It was their greatest happiness to be able to enjoy this taste every day.

After Fatty Jin and his buddies left, a petite figure slowly arrived while rubbing her eyes.

"Smelly boss, I am not late, right?" Ouyang Xiaoyi said with a yawn.

The sound of thunder could be heard from a distance.

Just as Ouyang Xiaoyi entered the store, it started to rain outside. The continuous raindrops formed a curtain of rain in the sky, concealing the heaven and earth.

"No, you're late," Bu Fang earnestly said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi rolled her eyes in response, then stuck her tongue out and made a face at Bu Fang.

"Smelly boss! I brought enough money today, I want to eat breakfast!" Ouyang Xiaoyi triumphantly said as she took out a sachet and waved it in front of Bu Fang. The sound of crystals colliding could be heard from within the sachet.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at the sachet. There was a smiling pig's head sewn on it; it was definitely her style.

"Oh. There's a new dish today, but your cultivation level isn't high enough. Otherwise, you would be able to taste it," Bu Fang simply said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's expression froze and she felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into her chest. "It hurts!"

"I will definitely work hard for the sake of food!" Ouyang Xiaoyi declared while pouting.

"Oh, I am sure that your grandfather would definitely be glad to hear that," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Glad? As if! If the elderly Ouyang knew that she was going to train hard just to eat good food, he might just vomit a few liters of blood.

While the two of them were bickering, a figure appeared within the rain.

With an oil-paper umbrella in hand and wearing a white robe, he looked gentle and refined with a smile on his face.

The third prince slowly stepped into Fang Fang's Little Store and closed his oil-paper umbrella. He gave the umbrella a little shake to get rid of the water and leaned it on a wall near the entrance.

Bu Fang curiously looked at the third prince. The third prince seemed a little different that day. Even though he still gave off a gentle and refined feeling, there was a slight bone-chilling coldness hidden in his refinement.

Ji Chengxue stepped into Fang Fang Little's Store, but did not greet Bu Fang. He found a seat on his own and sat down.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and Bu Fang were both puzzled.

Shortly, the disarrayed sound of footsteps came from the alleyway, along with the sound of rain landing on bamboo hats.

From a short distance away, four figures were slowly walking toward Fang Fang's Little Store from the entrance of the alleyway.

The rain gradually became heavier and raindrops created splashes on the ground. The fog became thicker and the entire world seemed to be unreal at that moment. It was as if the rain had

suddenly become silent.

As the four figures stepped into Fang Fang's Little Store, a gust of rain and cold immediately invaded the space and the warm ambience instantly changed into a freezing atmosphere.

Ouyang Xiaoyi shuddered and cowered, still in front of Bu Fang, while curiously staring at the four people with her large eyes.

The four of them found separate seats and sat down. They did not speak with Bu Fang either as they imperceptibly surrounded Ji Chengxue.

A raindrop dripped down from one of the bamboo hats and suddenly burst open as it hit the ground; it was like a sudden thunderclap had occurred within the quiet store.

Then, four rays of dazzling white lights suddenly appeared—like a short-lived flower—as they rushed towards Ji Chengxue's position.

Chapter 30: Did You Get My Permission For The Assassination?

As the raindrop burst open, flashes of light appeared.

Underneath the bamboo hats, killing intent as cold as icebergs suddenly engulfed the entire store. Four rays of light flashed with the sound of clashing metals, reflecting the sharpness of the blades as they stabbed toward the refined and gentle third prince from all directions.

The humming of the swords resounded within the tiny space of the store, assaulting their eardrums.

Within that instant when the flashes of light appeared, Bu Fang grabbed onto the petite body of Ouyang Xiaoyi and pulled her behind him to prevent her from getting embroiled in the carnage.

Assassination! This was an attempt to assassinate Ji Chengxue!

Ji Chengxue seemed to have expected it. He calmly sat on the chair with an indifferent expression.

The moment when the four assassins approached, Ji Chengxue's long hair suddenly fluttered on its own. His gentle eyes seemed to have undergone a huge transformation as it changed into the eyes of an Asura; it was as if mountains of corpses and an endless sea of blood were wallowing within.

"To have sent four fifth grade Battle-Kings to assassinate me, what an extravagant move." Ji Chengxue snorted as a surging wave of true energy gushed out of his body and charged toward the deadly assassins.

However, the assassins remained steadfast and continued to aim for Ji Chengxue's heart. They were professionals that focused on killing with a single strike and would definitely not be affected by any of Ji Chengxue's actions.

Ji Chengxue's palm landed on the table. The true energy of a Battle-King was instantly released and generated an impact that resulted in his entire body soaring into the air.

"Hmm?" Ji Chengxue's pupils slightly constricted as he looked in horror toward the table that he smacked with all of his strength. "This table endured my true energy, yet it's actually intact?!"

The sound of clashing metals echoed out.

The tip of the swords of the four assassins collided together. A clear melodic sound rang out as the energy from the swords dispersed and erupted within the store.

However, the explosion of the sword energy from the four Battle-Kings did not cause any damage to the store in the slightest. It was as if the explosion was dispersed by an invisible force.

Ji Chengxue's figure was floating in the air and gradually landed

on the tip of the swords; his white robes were hovering and his hair was fluttering.

The five of them formed a strange standstill, but the surging energy around them undoubtedly displayed the dangers of the current moment.

The mood within the store was filled with coldness from this clash of killing intent. This made Bu Fang very dissatisfied.

Within the quiet store, only the true energy collision between the five of them could be heard.

"If you're looking for a fight, please leave the store. Otherwise, you'll all be viewed as troublemakers," a serene voice suddenly sounded out.

The sudden appearance of the voice was like a thunderclap to them within this serious atmosphere, causing them to be shocked.

The little loli, Ouyang Xiaoyi, was looking at Bu Fang like he was a monster as he slowly walked toward the five of them.

That was right!

At such a perilous moment, Bu Fang expressionlessly opened his mouth and voiced out his unhappiness. How was he going to do business with them causing carnage within the store?

The four assassins were all focused on Ji Chengxue, but became distracted by Bu Fang's interruption.

Even though Ji Chengxue was taken aback as well, he was able to make use of this opportunity. With a growl, he heavily stepped on the tip of their swords and knocked their swords away. Landing on the ground, he swiftly struck the chests of the four assassins with his palm and forced them backwards.

"Are you seeking death?" One of the assassins coldly looked toward Bu Fang and hoarsely said. His voice was like sandpaper.

In his eyes, Bu Fang—a mere second grade Battle-Master—was only an ant that could be easily killed with a single stroke of their sword. An ant-like fellow actually dared to disturb their assassination!

"I am the owner of this store. Did you get my permission before trying to assassinate someone here?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

"What a joke." The assassin shook his head. He could not be bothered to care about Bu Fang; an ant-like fellow could not affect the situation. Their objective was the third prince of the Light Wind Empire, Ji Chengxue.

Since Ji Chengxue was a Battle-King as well, they did not dare to be complacent. Even though there were four Battle-Kings on their side, their opponent was a prince. How could he not have any

trump cards?

"I already said! Fighting is prohibited within Fang Fang's Little Store. If you continue with this, you shall be viewed as troublemakers," Bu Fang coldly said. He realized that these unforgivable fellows were actually ignoring him.

As the owner of Fang Fang's Little Store and the future God of Cooking, how could they ignore him?!

"How annoying! Die!"

The gaze of one of the assassins suddenly turned cold. With a shout, he swiftly charged toward Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was enveloped within a wave of killing intent, as if he was plunged into a pool of icy water. The blood in his veins had almost stopped circulating and his limbs could not even move an inch.

This was the result of the use of coercion from a fifth grade Battle-King. It was not something the current Bu Fang could resist. His cultivation level was simply too weak.

Ji Chengxue's expression changed and he angrily shouted, "How dare you!"

He wanted to rescue Bu Fang, but was intercepted by the other three assassins.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was already frozen with fear by the bone-chilling killing intent of the Battle-King. Her eyes were filled with horror and she was unable to lend a hand. Of course, even if she could intervene, there would not be any difference in the result.

And so, it seemed that Bu Fang was caught in a lethal situation where he would certainly die... At least, that was what everyone in the store thought.

For a Battle-Master to actually provoke a Battle-King, calling him fearless would not be enough as a compliment.

Ji Chengxue and Ouyang Xiaoyi could only watch Bu Fang being completely torn into pieces by the assassin's sword.

Bu Fang, on the other hand, was very calm. Even though the chilling killing intent made him feel as if the blood in his entire body was frozen, there was not even a single hint of fear on his expressionless face.

Those eyes... looked as if he was looking at a mere thug causing trouble in his store.

"This ant... He's pretty good at putting on an act. My sword is about to land on him, and yet it doesn't look like he's even afraid?" The assassin was slightly surprised.

Suddenly, a gigantic figure appeared in the path of the assassin's

sword. It cut off the assassin's line of sight to Bu Fang's figure and immediately startled the assassin.

"Whitey!" Ouyang Xiaoyi excitedly screamed as her eyes lit up.

It was as if the assassin had seen a ghost. He saw a gigantic white iron puppet blocking the path to the ant and it grabbed hold of his sword with a single move.

He tried to pull his sword free but it did not move even a single inch.

Bu Fang lifted his hand and patted Whitey's back and simply said, "Throw these troublemakers out."

"Oh, and beat him half to death first, then strip him and throw him out. I hate him very much," Bu Fang added.

Whitey's mechanic eyes immediately flashed red and a mechanic voice sounded out, "Troublemakers, you will be stripped as an example to others."

Bang!!

A huge and terrifying force rushed out of Whitey's body and that assassin's bamboo hat suddenly broke into pieces, revealing a round and bald head. His eyes widened as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

The assassin was punched in the abdomen by Whitey; a Battle-King's true energy was dispersed by this single punch...

Whitey's large hand grabbed the head of the assassin and lifted him into the air as he stared at the iron puppet in bewilderment.

Bang!

Whitey's fist landed on the assassin's body once more and he immediately fainted. The assassin sloppily lay on the floor, hanging on to life by a thread.

"Judged to be half dead. Will now begin to strip as an example to others," Whitey mechanically said.

Then, sounds of tearing rang out as the assassin's straw raincoat was torn into pieces. He was immediately stripped naked by Whitey, leaving a tiny cloth to cover his private parts. Whitey gently waved its hand and the Battle-King was thrown out of the store like slush.

Bang! The sound of flesh intimately colliding with the ground sounded out and echoed within the little store.

The remaining three assassins, Ji Chengxue, and Ouyang Xiaoyi were all stunned. They stared at Whitey and then at Bu Fang... They looked like they had just seen a ghost.

Chapter 31: Soon... The Little Store Will Be Teeming With Customers

The scene was oddly quiet.

Ji Chengxue looked at the slightly adorable Whitey in astonishment. This iron puppet's strength was contrary to his expectations. A fifth grade Battle-King was troublesome to deal with even for him, yet this Whitey was able to strip a Battle-King and throw him out of the store.

The third prince did not expect Bu Fang to be that calm either. The sword had almost reached Bu Fang, but he managed to remain indifferent. Did he really have that much faith in that puppet?

The remaining three assassins also recovered from their shock and looked at Whitey as if they were facing their greatest enemy. They did not dare to underestimate Bu Fang any longer. There was no other reason for it aside from the fact that the puppet was able to beat their comrade half to death with two punches.

"There's a mistake with the information! There's something strange with this store!" The three assassins looked at each other and their eyes underneath the bamboo hats were extremely serious.

Without question, their assassination had failed. As an assassin, if their first strike had failed, they should immediately retreat and look for another opportunity. That was why they gave up on assassinating Ji Chengxue and ran to the entrance of the store.

However, how could the three of them escape when they were already targeted by Whitey? The three escaping figures were captured by a gigantic force and pulled in front of the iron puppet.

Whitey's mechanical eyes were blinking as it threw out three palm strikes in a row. The three of them each spat out a mouthful of blood and fell onto the floor. The bamboo hats on their heads were all torn to pieces as they helplessly lay there.

The sound of tearing rang out, then the three assassins were thrown out naked like the first one. They fell into the alleyway with only a small cloth to cover their private parts.

It was still raining heavily outside. Raindrops spilled down from the sky and rapidly formed a curtain that enshrouded the world.

After completing everything, Whitey mechanically made a fist pump. Then its mechanical eyes flashed and it seemed quite happy as it returned to the kitchen.

The coldness in Ji Chengxue's eyes gradually disappeared and they once again returned to their former refined state. The corner of his mouth held a hint of a smile as he meaningfully looked at Bu Fang.

He suddenly realized that he was unable to see through this chef, who was only a second grade Battle-Master.

"What do you want to order?" Bu Fang ignored Ji Chengxue's gaze and expressionlessly asked.

"I'll have Lees Fish. Today, I am lucky that Owner Bu was around to lend a hand. I wanted to drink in celebration but since there's no wine sold here, I can only order Lees Fish." The third prince, Ji Chengxue chuckled and nodded toward Bu Fang.

If it was not for Whitey's help, then it would've been really dangerous for him. Even he did not expect that they would be so deranged as to openly attack him within the imperial city.

"There will be good wine for sale in a few days, but there really isn't any today," Bu Fang simply said as he headed toward the kitchen. Along the way, he gently patted Ouyang Xiaoyi—who was still dumbstruck—on the head.

"Oh? There's going to be wine?" Ji Chengxue's eyes lit up, then his smile became brighter as he meaningfully glanced at the slim figure of Bu Fang entering the kitchen.

"Xiaoyi, I'll be going out for a while. Make sure to keep the Lees Fish for me when it's done," Ji Chengxue said to Ouyang Xiaoyi, who was still in a daze, as he slowly walked toward the entrance.

"Oh, eh? Why are you going out?" Ouyang Xiaoyi blankly asked.

However, Ji Chengxue did not answer her and just stepped out of the store.

Just by taking a single step, the expression on Ji Chengxue's face suddenly changed. The gentle and refined smile disappeared and was replaced by a bone-chilling killing intent.

He opened his umbrella to block out the curtain of rain falling from the sky. The rain water splashed onto his shoes and soaked his clothes.

Within the alleyway, the four assassins stood up with difficulty. They were almost unable to open their eyes with the heavy rain spraying into them. Within the fog, they seemed to see a refined figure holding an oil-paper umbrella.

Then their line of sight suddenly froze as their eyes widened.

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Ji Chengxue returned to the store and stepped into its warm interior once more. He blew into his hands and rubbed them together to disperse some of the coldness in his body. He shook off the rainwater on his robes as a gentle and refined smile reappeared on his face.

"Xiaoyi, is the Lees Fish ready?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi blinked and said, "It's not, but I can already smell the wine aroma. It should be ready soon."

Ji Chengxue nodded and returned to his seat. At his feet, rainwater with a reddish tinge slowly dripped off from the bottom of his robes. Ouyang Xiaoyi stared at the reddish puddle of water for a while without saying anything.

The third prince did not say anything either. He closed his eyes and rested, as if he was thinking about something.

After a while, a rich wine aroma drifted out of the kitchen and hovered within the store, washing away any residual killing intent.

Ouyang Xiaoyi wobbled as she carried out the plate of Lees Fish. Along the way, the fragrance continuously drifted out from the plate. She used a handkerchief to block her nostrils and forced herself not to breathe in the smell. She was staring at the Lees Fish as she placed it in front of Ji Chengxue.

"Your Highness big brother, here's your fish," Ouyang Xiaoyi said with a nasal voice.

"Haha, it's finally done. I was really craving this Lees Fish. In the entire empire, I admire Owner Bu's culinary skills the most." Ji Chengxue chuckled while patting Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen as well. He carried out a bowl of fragrant Egg-Fried Rice and placed it opposite to Ji Chengxue's seat. He pointed toward it and said to Ouyang Xiaoyi, "Here's your breakfast."

Ouyang Xiaoyi, who was still shocked from the assassination attempt, immediately calmed down. Her eyes lit up as she sat on the chair and started to gobble down the Egg-Fried Rice.

Ji Chengxue's way of eating was very elegant; it was obvious that he was very self-disciplined.

"Owner Bu, do you really have no interest in becoming the imperial chef? With your culinary skills, you can definitely become the head chef of the imperial kitchen," Ji Chengxue tried to persuade him once more.

"I am not interested in becoming anyone's chef. If the emperor wishes to eat my dishes, then get him to personally queue up," Bu Fang indifferently replied. He said as if it was obvious and was not being pretentious about it.

"With owner Bu's skills, it's a waste of your talent to stay here. If you would enter the imperial kitchen, you would surely be able to display your talents," Ji Chengxue said with a sigh.

"Who said that I can't display my talents within this alleyway? I believe that it won't be long before this place is teeming with customers," Bu Fang seriously and confidently said.

Ji Chengxue was slightly startled by Bu Fang's reply. He subconsciously said, "That's not possible. With the prices of your dishes, ordinary people wouldn't be able to afford it."

"No, it's not that they can't afford it. It's that they can't eat it. You should understand the reason why my dishes are valuable," Bu Fang simply said.

Whether it was the ordinary Egg-Fried Rice or the improved version, Lees Fish or the Fish Head Tofu Soup, the ingredients chosen were all from valuable spirit beasts and spirit herbs that were filled with spirit energy. Spirit beasts were originally valuable because they were difficult to capture; using them as ingredients for food was unbelievable. Spirit herbs were difficult to obtain and were usually used to make elixirs.

Bu Fang's dishes managed to preserve most of the spirit energy from the ingredients. Eating one of his dishes was like eating an elixir and would help in cultivation. This was the reason why his dishes were valuable and a fact that Ji Chengxue and the rest had neglected.

Bu Fang felt that he needed to remind this foolish child.

Ji Chengxue's was picking up a piece of fish with his chopsticks but suddenly stopped and his pupils constricted. He was extremely shocked, as if his heart was struck by a giant rock.

That was right! Since he had become a fifth grade Battle-King, he needed an extremely large amount of spirit energy to break through to the next level. Bu Fang's dishes were unable to help him in that. He only came on a daily basis because of the taste of the dishes.

However, after Bu Fang's reminder, he realized that the dishes may only have a miniscule effect on him due to his cultivation level. However, it was different for the other cultivators who were only Battle-Maniacs and Battle-Spirits!

"Also, I need to remind you. In the future, there will be more and more dishes. The ingredients chosen will also be more and more powerful..." Bu Fang slowly said.

"There might be a chance... for the meat of a ninth grade sacred beast to appear!"

Chapter 32: Fang Fang's Little Store Is Going To Be Popular!

"The meat of a ninth grade sacred beast?!"

The corner of Ji Chengxue's mouth twitched as he looked toward Bu Fang, whose face was currently filled with mystery. If his view of Bu Fang had not changed due to the incident that happened earlier, he would think that Bu Fang was someone with intellectual disabilities.

What was a sacred beast? Within the entire Light Wind Empire, the strongest person that he knew was the number one great general of the empire, Xiao Meng. However, the great Xiao Meng who made the experts from the surrounding Sects despair was only a seventh grade Battle-Saint...

For the mere owner of a store—who was only a Battle-Master—within the remote alleyways of the capital to mention the meat of a sacred beast... Ji Chengxue had no idea of how strong a sacred beast was, but he could use General Xiao Meng as a comparison.

A single sacred beast should be worth at least a few dozen General Xiao Meng. A single General Xiao Meng was able to dominate over a few hundred experts from the Sects. A few dozen General Xiao Meng... could probably destroy the imperial palace with a wave of their hand.

"Owner Bu really likes to joke around. I've been to many places but I've never heard of any news of ninth grade sacred beasts," Ji

Chengxue said, while faintly smiling as he finished the Lees Fish.

Bu Fang did not reply. He understood that Ji Chengxue did not believe him. However, he was not perturbed; it was natural for Ji Chengxue not to believe. After all, a sacred beast was far too terrifying.

"Actually, the higher the grade of the spirit beast, the better will be the quality of their meat. They are like natural ingredients of the highest grade. If Your Highness were to obtain any good ingredients, you could bring them to the store and I will help you cook them," Bu Fang seriously said. The system had already risen to two stars and he was able to cook ingredients brought by the customers. That was why he decided to remind Ji Chengxue.

"Oh? I can bring my own ingredients? This seems slightly interesting." Ji Chengxue's eyes lit up and he nodded.

Outside, the rain had gradually come to a stop. The dark clouds were slowly dispersing, unveiling countless rays of warm sunlight.

Ji Chengxue stood up and handed over twenty crystals from a sachet to Bu Fang. Then he rubbed the head of Ouyang Xiaoyi, who was still gobbling down the Egg-Fried Rice, and left the store while carrying his oil-paper umbrella.

After the rain, puddles of water had accumulated on the quartzite floor of the alleyway. Green moss looked as if it was stretching while rain water slowly dripped from the walls that were still wet.

The big black dog was still lying at the entrance as it sleepily yawned. Even after the rain, the fur on its body remained soft and shiny, without a single trace of wetness.

Within the majestic imperial palace, row upon row of buildings were orderly built.

Troops of armor-wearing guards were patrolling with grim expressions. They were not weak; the weakest among them was a third grade Battle-Maniac, while the leader of one of the troops was a fifth grade Battle-King.

Ji Chengxue had returned to the palace. The leader of the patrol respectfully saluted when they spotted him and he indifferently nodded in their direction.

Passing through the entrance of the imperial palace, he arrived at the vast and wide Gate of Heavenly Mystery Square. There were six stone pillars erected on the plaza, and carved upon each of them were unusual images of strange beasts and rare treasures.

Ji Chengxue was standing in front of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and looking at the wide plaza with a complicated expression. He took in a deep breath, inhaling the fresh air after a rain.

The palace of the crown prince was situated behind the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

After passing through the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, a few dozen meters away to the left of the main hall of the imperial palace was the palace of the crown prince. With golden bricks and red tiles, it was magnificently and luxuriously built.

"Your Imperial Highness. According to our spies, there was an assassination attempt on the third prince in a restaurant within the imperial city," a middle-aged man with an impressive beard said—while holding a message in his hand—toward a seated young man within the palace of the crown prince.

The young man was dressed in a golden [python robe](#) and had a [purple crown](#) on his head. He had a pale face and long, narrow dashing eyebrows. His eyes were slightly tilted like a sharp blade, giving off a demonic yet dignified aura.

Python Robe(蟒袍) - It was a robe worn by court officials in the past, named for the python sewn on it.

Purple Crown(紫金冠) - It was also known as "Crown Prince Helm". It was generally worn by princes and young generals.

"Oh? Is he dead yet?" the man simply asked. The first thing he asked was the fate of Ji Chengxue.

"No. The third prince spent a long time battling the Sects outside our border. With his combat experience, mere assassins wouldn't be able to kill him." The refined middle-aged man laughed as he stroked his beard.

"Those who would dare to assassinate third brother would at least be Battle-Kings and third brother would definitely be injured.

However, if he was injured, then the entire imperial city would know about it. If Father knew about it as well, the current state wouldn't be this peaceful." The crown prince opened his eyes, revealing dark and deep pupils.

"The third prince is indeed unharmed. That's strange. Could it be that an expert aided him?" The middle aged man pondered.

"Xushi, isn't third brother constantly going to that restaurant in the alleyway these days? Is there anything abnormal about that restaurant? Did you send anyone to investigate?" The crown prince asked.

"Your Highness... There's something weird with that restaurant," that middle-aged man called Xushi strangely said.

"Hmm? How is it weird?"

"That restaurant is the black-hearted little store from the rumors circulating within the imperial city. A bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... costs ten crystals. A bowl of dry-mixed noodles costs a hundred gold coins. The most expensive dish is the Lees Fish, which costs twenty crystals. They really are astronomical dishes." Xushi had a weird expression on his face.

"It truly is an astronomical price... Third brother has actually fallen in love with this black-hearted little store? It seems that there is definitely something about that store that no one knows about. Xushi, find an opportunity to visit that store." The corner of the crown prince's mouth curled up with interest.

"There's two more days until Great General Xiao Meng triumphantly returns to the imperial city. The Great General Xiao Meng is truly incredible. He defeated the Heterodox Sect, Death Soul Palace, in one fell swoop and even captured their six leaders. With this, the morale of the Sects will surely suffer. This truly is the fortune of Light Wind Empire." The crown prince stood up and slowly paced around while sighing.

"If I wish to secure my position as the crown prince or even become the emperor, I will definitely need the support of Great General Xiao."

"Your Highness, the Sects are showing signs of uprising these past few years. Since His Majesty sent General Xiao to conquer the Sects, I am afraid that Xiao Meng has become a thorn in their sides. He would surely be obstructed by the Sects as he escorted the prisoners into the imperial city. There has recently been some movements occurring within the imperial city. According to our spies, experts from the five great Orthodox Sects and the three great Heterodox Sects have already infiltrated into the imperial city," Xushi said with a frown.

"Unrest? It's better when there's unrest. There are some things that are easier to do when there's unrest. Isn't that what my second brother is thinking? Otherwise, why would he send assassins after third brother? However, he probably did not expect that third brother would return without any injuries." The crown prince chuckled with his hands behind his back as he looked into a distance.

Xushi was stunned and did not say anything else. He was only an advisor; he would only speak when he should speak and would remain silent when he should not speak.

"It's fine, I already know about third brother's matter. I am not worried about him. The one that I am concerned about is second brother. However, there's indeed something strange with the assassination this time. Send someone... No, you should personally visit that black-hearted little store. That store is indeed quite interesting," the crown prince said.

Xushi nodded, then withdrew after performing a fist and palm salute.

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King Yu's manor.

The second prince, Ji Chengyu, expressionlessly destroyed the letter in his hand.

"A mere restaurant dares to obstruct me. It looks like there's a need to visit this restaurant. I'd to like see who's hiding inside that would actually dare to kill four of my fifth grade Battle-King assassins," King Yu coldly said.

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Within an hour of the third prince's assassination attempt, the

high ranking officials and influential factions within the imperial city had received the news. Whether it was the Xiao manor or the Ouyang manor, they were shocked by the news. An assassination attempt on a prince was not a small matter.

Naturally, other than the fact that there was an assassination attempt on the prince, Fang Fang's Little Store had entered the line of sight of these bigwigs as well. Many of them were extremely curious about this store that sold a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice for ten crystals.

Consequently, various factions sent out their men to visit the store.

At that moment, the owner of that store was leisurely curled up on a chair. The warm sunlight after the rain was enveloping his body, causing him to comfortably yawn.

He may not know it yet, but a huge group of bigwigs was approaching.

Chapter 33: Very Well, You Have Been Blacklisted

"Welcome to Bu Fang's Little Store. The menu is on the wall. Tell me when you've decided on your order."

As Xushi stepped into the store, a likable voice rang out. An adorable loli was staring at him while blinking her eyes.

"The young lady from the Ouyang family?" Xushi raised his eyebrows and was slightly surprised. Even though the intelligence from his spies had already mentioned Ouyang Xiaoyi's presence, he was still amazed when he actually saw her.

"Why would the princess of the Ouyang family actually demean herself by becoming a waitress of this little store? Did she become stupid?"

At the entrance, a slim and tall young man wearing a chef's uniform slowly got up. He was moving his neck from side to side as he lazily walked toward the kitchen.

"That's the owner of this store? His cultivation level is really low... How is it possible that he's only a second grade Battle-Master? To be able to kill four Battle-King assassins, he should be at least be a sixth grade Battle-Emperor."

Xushi thought as he stroked his beautiful, long beard while staring at Bu Fang's back in astonishment.

"Hey, what are you ordering?!" Ouyang Xiaoyi unhappily asked. She was annoyed that this old fellow was not paying attention to an adorable loli like her and was staring at the smelly boss instead. Was her adorable charm inferior to that of smelly boss?

Xushi awkwardly smiled as he turned his attention back to her and looked toward the menu on the wall. With this look, his pupils suddenly constricted.

"The rumors were true. The number one shady store in the imperial city is indeed true to its name..." Xushi sucked in a breath of cold air and muttered to himself. Even though he was following the crown prince's orders to investigate this store, he was still bewildered when he saw the astronomical prices on the menu.

"I'll have... Fish Head Tofu Soup." Xushi was not someone who lacked money. He glanced through the menu and selected his favorite one, the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

"Please wait a moment." The little loli snorted and headed toward the kitchen. She did not like this old fellow that paid more attention to the smelly boss than to her.

Xushi found a seat and sat down. The store was not big and there were four tables. It was cozy and compact, while the environment was quiet and clean. The overall feeling that it gave customers was good.

Da da da.

A series of footsteps came from outside. Several people approached from a distance and stepped into the store.

"Hmm? Xushi?" A voice lightly exclaimed. Xushi was puzzled as he turned toward the entrance and saw a middle-aged man.

"Great Secretariat Su, I didn't expect to see you here," Xushi stood up in surprise and did a fist and palm salute while slightly bowing. The middle-aged man in front of him was the great secretariat from the imperial court. Xushi was shocked that such a person would personally come to this little restaurant.

Even though the Light Wind Empire was a martial country, there were still civil servants. After all, considering both martial and civil aspects was the true way of governing a country.

Su Yuanqing recognized the man with the beautiful, long beard in front of him. Xushi, the favorite person of the crown prince, was well known within the imperial court.

Since Su Yuanqing and Xushi were not familiar with each other, they took separate seats after exchanging greetings. Su Yuanqing ordered Egg-Fried Rice.

Bu Fang was already busy cooking in the kitchen. "It seems that there's a lot of new customers today. What's going on? Could it be that someone within the imperial city is helping to advertise the store?"

Even though Bu Fang was puzzled, his hands did not stop. He scooped up a third grade Thunder Silver Carp and started to remove the scales. After the intestines were discarded, he rinsed the fish with water and chopped off the head.

Keeping the head, the rest of the fish was thrown into Whitey's stomach area to be recycled. Then Bu Fang took out the sparkling Ice-crystal Jadeite Tofu from the freezer and began to cook the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

While the Fish Head Tofu Soup was being simmered, Bu Fang took out a white egg that was as big as his fist from the freezer.

It was the first egg laid by a fifth grade Deep Sea Foal Eagle and was rich with spirit energy. Bu Fang heavily tapped it against a blue and white porcelain bowl and managed to crack the egg into the bowl with one hand.

While he was preparing the dishes, Fang Fang's Little Store was already packed with people.

"I'll have the Egg-Fried Rice."

"Give me the Dry-Mixed Noodles! And hurry up!"

"I want the Lees Fish."

.....

Watching as the customers squeezed into the store, Ouyang Xiaoyi was slightly dumbfounded. "When did this store of ours... become so popular?"

She counted at least a dozen customers. "Oh my heavens! Is this really the store that was completely deserted a few days ago?!"

"Everyone, calm down. There's too many people, so queue up first," Ouyang Xiaoyi loudly said. There was nothing else she could do. Since it was really inconvenient for the customers to squeeze into the store, she had to make them queue up. The space within the store was too small.

"Queue up? Little girl, do you know who I am? I am the housekeeper of Lord Zhang! How dare you make me queue up! Hurry up and let your boss serve me my food," A middle-aged man wearing a silk robe unhappily scolded Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"So what if you're the housekeeper of Lord Zhang! Little girl, do you know who I am? I am the main housekeeper of the Director of the Board of Rites!"

"Is a housekeeper of the Director of the Board of Rites that impressive? I am the personal bodyguard of King Mu!"

.....

Ouyang Xiaoyi expressionlessly looked on as the group of customers endlessly quarrelled. Every one of them had self-important expressions on their faces.

Even though the loli was amazed that the subordinates of the bigwigs would come to eat at a store located in an alleyway, she was very upset about how pompous they were.

Xushi lightly shook his head as he listened to the argument behind him and thought that it was quite ridiculous. He clearly understood the reason why this group of people was there because they had the same objective as him.

It was laughable that the crowd actually did not recognize the identity of the girl and wanted to jump the queue by announcing their background.

Among these people, the waitress was the one with the scariest background. However, he could not be bothered to point it out to them.

Just then, a rich fragrance drifted out of the kitchen. The smell was like a piece of silk rubbing across their cheeks. Everyone within the dining area went into a daze as they subconsciously breathed in the fragrance.

The eyes of both Su Yuanqing and Xushi lit up. The smell was... very fragrant! There was a reason why the price was so high.

Bu Fang was carrying the Egg-Fried Rice out of the kitchen when he saw the crowded situation in the dining area. He was stunned for a moment and was slightly unable to accept the fact that the store suddenly became popular.

However, he remained calm and the astonishment only lasted for an instant before he became expressionless once more.

"Everyone has to queue up accordingly. Each customer can only order each dish once. Takeout is not allowed. Cutting in line is not allowed. Anyone who violates the rules will be blacklisted and service will no longer be provided to them," Bu Fang simply said. His voice was not loud but was able to overwhelm the noise.

Then, within an instant, the entire store erupted into an uproar.

These people were sent by their masters to investigate the store. They were used to lording over others outside, so how could they tolerate so many rules from a tiny store like this? They instantly started to clamor.

Bu Fang expressionlessly placed the Egg-Fried Rice in front of Su Yuanqing.

"Here's your improved Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang said.

Su Yuanqing's sight was already attracted by the Egg-Fried Rice. He nodded and no longer paid any attention to Bu Fang.

"Be quiet! Don't make such a racket!" Bu Fang coldly shouted while frowning.

"Gosh, darn it! You brat, don't push your luck! I am giving you face by eating here! I am the subordinate of Lord Zhang! I am not someone you can afford to offend!" The housekeeper angrily scolded while pointing at Bu Fang.

The others were also pointing at Bu Fang while indignantly swearing.

The store that was quiet for a moment became noisy once more.

Ouyang Xiaoyi rolled her eyes and then saw the irritable expression on Bu Fang's face. She suddenly decided to silently observe these people for a moment. Of all the places they could act conceited in, they had to come to Fang Fang's Little Store...

With a series of mechanical sounds, Whitey's gigantic figure appeared behind Bu Fang with its mechanical eyes flashing.

"Oh my! Do you think that you're invincible just because you have an iron puppet? Is this where your confidence is coming from?!" When the housekeeper saw Whitey, he was amused for a moment. He had seen plenty of puppets before and knew that they were all just a bunch of junk.

Bu Fang narrowed his eyes and pointed toward the housekeeper

of Lord Zhang.

"Very well, you've been blacklisted."

Chapter 34: If You Double The Price Again, I Will Definitely Beat You Up

"You're going to blacklist me? A lowly chef like you?"

Lord Zhang's housekeeper was startled by Bu Fang's actions and started to laugh out loud. He was laughing so much that tears were almost coming out.

The people around them could not help but snicker as they looked at Bu Fang with ridicule and contempt in their eyes. Was this young chef an idiot? Did he not know who he was speaking to? That was the housekeeper of Lord Zhang!

Lord Zhang was a noble and was a renowned bigwig within the imperial city, and his housekeeper was naturally well-known as well. For the chef of a little restaurant located within an alleyway to shamelessly boast that he would blacklist the housekeeper of Lord Zhang, it was the biggest joke in history.

"Do you know how easy it is for me to tear down this restaurant? The fact that I am eating here is giving you face. You should be happily serving my food to me. Who gave you the courage to be conceited in front of me?"

The housekeeper snorted while haughtily crossing his arms.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly looking at the housekeeper as if he was looking at an idiot.

"Housekeeper? Is that something impressive? Even a prince was rejected by me, do you think I would care about a housekeeper?"

Bu Fang did not even bother to reply and just lightly patted Whitey's wide belly. Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up and she was overjoyed to see Whitey in action again.

Whitey's mechanical eyes suddenly lit up and flashed red as it mechanically said, "Troublemaker, you will be stripped as an example to others."

Lord Zhang's housekeeper was startled. Putting his hand over his ear, he stretched out his neck and taunted, "What? What are you going to strip?"

"Say it again, what are you going to strip?"

Whitey's mechanical head slightly rotated and locked on the housekeeper. Its mechanical arms instantly reached out and grabbed him.

"Hmph! How impudent!" Lord Zhang's housekeeper coldly snorted with a sullen expression. As a third grade Battle-Maniac, there was no way that he would be afraid of a piece of junk that did not even have the slightest spirit energy.

"I will turn you into scrap metal! Take this, Bone Breaking Palm!"

With a loud shout, the housekeeper imposingly gathered true energy within his body and struck Whitey's mechanical arm with his palm.

Bang!

The result was very different from his expectations.

The fierce palm strike by Lord Zhang's housekeeper was like a drop in the ocean as it made contact with Whitey's arm. Whitey did not even budge from the attack.

"Gosh, darn it!"

The housekeeper's body stiffened as he awkwardly raised his head and made eye contact with Whitey's mechanical eyes. Then, Whitey proceeded to slap the housekeeper into the ground like it was slapping a fly.

The true energy within his body was dispersed in an instant...

The sound of cloth tearing rang out as the housekeeper's clothes were being torn off. After there was only a loincloth left to cover his private parts, he was then thrown out of the store in a parabolic arc.

Everyone in the store was dumbfounded while their eyes were transfixed by the housekeeper's body. As they watched it sail through the air, their entire bodies shuddered.

Zhao Ruge only just arrived at the entrance when a human figure flew out of the store and landed at his feet... For some reason, there was a sense of déjà vu about the situation.

It seemed that every time he went to the store, there would be someone flying out naked.

"I'll say it again, queue up accordingly and do not make any noise. Any violators will be blacklisted," Bu Fang simply said as he swept his eyes over the now silent crowd. Then he turned around and returned to the kitchen.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was standing behind him with her fist clenched. "The smelly boss is really impressive!"

Zhao Ruge shuddered as he recalled his previous nude streaking experience. His original intention to jump queue disappeared as well and he obediently lined up at the back of the queue.

When the Minister of the Left, Zhao Musheng, found out that there was an attempted assassination on the third prince, he sent out his son, Zhao Ruge, to investigate the store. In the beginning, Zhao Ruge flatly refused. However, when his father promised him a fifth grade Spirit Gathering Pill as a reward, he shamefully compromised.

Xushi was gravely staring at Whitey. Even a fifth grade Battle-King like him felt a slight pressure from it. "This puppet isn't simple."

Great Secretariat Su Yuanqing was pensively nodding his head as well. "This must be the hidden expert of this restaurant."

The two of them looked up and smiled at each other. Then, they lowered their heads and continued to gobble down the food. It was simply too good!

Intimidated by Whitey, the subordinates of the bigwigs were much more docile. The cultivation level of Lord Zhang's housekeeper was considered quite strong among them. However, he was still helplessly stripped naked by Whitey.

Without a doubt, they would only end up the same way if they tried anything. They could only be docile if they did not want to end up naked.

Ouyang Xiaoyi haughtily glanced at them as she memorized their orders and reported them to Bu Fang.

Xishu and Great Secretariat Su reluctantly finished their food with enraptured expressions. There was a reason for the expensive prices of the dishes. The taste was even better than food from the imperial kitchen. Also, the two of them could feel the true energy within their body had increased. It was obvious that the dishes were extraordinary.

As they hurriedly left the store, the people at the start of the queue took their seats. Bu Fang's cooking speed was fast as well, so they did not have to wait for too long.

Without a doubt, everyone who tasted Bu Fang's dishes was completely subdued.

Zhao Ruge's appetite was being triggered as he breathed in the fragrance drifting from the store and watched the customers—that had finished eating—reluctantly leave.

It was his third time coming to the store, but he was unable to taste the dishes the previous times. From the looks of it, they seemed pretty good. He was looking forward to trying them out.

When someone satisfactorily left the store, a joyful expression immediately appeared on Zhao Ruge's face. He elegantly walked into the store and gracefully stopped in front of Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Oh, it's you, sissy Zhao," Ouyang Xiaoyi looked up and said while pouting. She obviously knew Zhao Ruge.

"For the princess of Ouyang family to humbly become a waitress, what a waste. Tsk, tsk, tsk. I'll have Lees Fish," Zhao Ruge ordered after glancing at the menu. If he had to eat, he would eat the most expensive dish.

"That's none of your concern!" Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted while scrunching her nose.

She turned around and walked to the entrance of the kitchen to report the order. However, before she could shout it out, Bu Fang

expressionlessly walked out of the kitchen.

"Today's business hours is over. Customers who haven't eaten, come back tomorrow," Bu Fang simply said.

With his words, the eight people in the queue started to clamor.

"What? We've already waited for close to an hour and you're telling us that you're not cooking anymore?"

"Owner Bu, this is unfair to us! It's still early, so you should continue cooking. We want to taste your dishes."

.....

Bu Fang was unfazed while facing the countless complaints by the crowd.

"I'll say it again. Today's business hours is over. If you want to eat, come early tomorrow. Oh, and please don't make a racket," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Behind him, Whitey's mechanical eyes were shining red as they locked on the people who were clamoring. Immediately, these people went silent as if they were being strangled.

With Whitey keeping watch, they could only swallow their anger and resentfully leave while thinking about how to report to their

masters.

Zhao Ruge felt as if a countless amount of invisible arrows had pierced his chest. "Damn it, business hours is over again?! Could you not be so punctual?"

"Owner Bu, I'll pay five times the price... I want to order!" Unwilling to give up, Zhao Ruge tried to persuade Bu Fang.

"I refuse. You've already tried to tempt me the previous time," Bu Fang simply said.

"Rules are determined by humans, Owner Bu! Ten times! How about ten times the price? Today, I definitely must try out your dishes," Zhao Ruge gnashed his teeth and said while ominously glaring at Bu Fang.

"No." Bu Fang's heart was bleeding as he resentfully rejected Zhao Ruge. "If you raise your offer once more, I will definitely beat you up!"

Zhao Ruge was so depressed that he wanted to vomit blood. He coldly glanced at Bu Fang, then angrily snorted and stormed out of the store.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's face was filled with admiration as she looked at Bu Fang. She always thought that Bu Fang was a greedy person. She did not think that he would be so principled.

"Smelly boss, the way you rejected that sissy was so handsome!"
Ouyang Xiaoyi gave him a thumbs up.

"Haha," Bu Fang expressionlessly smiled.

.....

On the next two days, Fang Fang's Little Store was always teeming with people. There were new customers arriving every day. Xushi and Great Secretariat Su would come every single day and were completely subdued by Bu Fang's food.

On the other hand, the Xiao siblings and the third prince, Ji Chengxue, did not appear during that time. Of course, Bu Fang was slightly surprised but did not pay any heed.

And so, the third day arrived.

It was also a very important day in the imperial city.

The number one expert in the imperial city, Great General Xiao Meng, was triumphantly returning after battling the clans outside the empire borders. He was escorting the six leaders of the Heterodox Sect, Death Soul Palace, that he took as prisoners back to the imperial city.

That day, the imperial city was filled with opportunities as the city gates were laid wide open.

Chapter 35: Unsealing The Jar Of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine

In the main street of the imperial city.

Troops in armor were clearing the way and blocking the spectating crowd on both sides of the street. There were crowds of people gathered making a racket. The noise was so loud that it seemed that it was going to capsize the imperial city.

The people were all focusing their attention as they curiously and expectantly looked toward the city gate.

As the icy cold autumn wind blew, the dead leaves on the main street of the imperial city were blown into the air. Since the first group of soldiers entered the city, the mood of the imperial city was somber. The spectating crowd was absolutely silent as hundreds of blood-red flags marched past. It was like a sea of blood as the flags fluttered in the wind.

The troops in armor were marching in step and every single step was filled with a chilly metallic sound as it resounded throughout the imperial city.

Within the troops, the leader was a middle-aged man riding a reddish-brown horse. His sharp gaze and handsome features gave off a commanding aura.

This man was the number one expert in the Light Wind Empire,

the Great General Xiao Meng, who was triumphantly returning after battling the Sects.

Within the long and narrow rank of troops, there were six steel prisoner carriages being escorted. The exterior of the cages were splattered with blood, that filled the air with a pungent smell. The carriages were being pulled by gigantic spirit beasts and each step they took made the ground tremble.

Even though the heads of the prisoners within the carriages were lowered and they were barely breathing, their identities were shockingly well-known outside of the border. They were the six leaders of the Heterodox Sect, Death Soul Palace and every single one of them was a sixth grade Battle-Emperor.

Each of them used to be influential and eminent individuals but were now reduced to prisoners.

The carriages were generating a lot of noise as the wheels rolled over the quartzite flooring of the imperial city. The crowd was also loudly cheering after their initial silence.

They were always enthusiastic toward soldiers that returned in triumph and such a victory would definitely be celebrated. As a country became stronger, the citizens would be proud as well. This was the so-called patriotism.

The hardened and disciplined troops were indifferent to the cheers of the crowd. They continued to orderly march toward their destination, the majestic palace.

A tall platform was built at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery Square, in front of the palace. Colorful flags were set up in the surrounding area and were fluttering in the autumn wind.

The palace guards neatly surrounded the Gate of Heavenly Mystery Square to ensure order.

"We welcome the triumphant return of Great General Xiao!"

As the troops stepped into the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the sharp voice of a eunuch—accompanied with true energy—resounded throughout the entire city and could almost be heard in every nook and cranny. It was soon followed by another round of cheers.

On the platform, an elderly man wearing a [dragon robe](#) was smiling. He gently looked at the homecoming troops and nodded from time to time.

Dragon robes(龙袍) - This can only be worn by emperors and as its name implies, images of dragons are sewn on top of it.

Not far from the elderly man, the crown prince, Ji Chengan, was leisurely standing there in his python robe. On his right was the heroic-looking King Yu, Ji Chengyu, and the third prince, Ji Chengxue.

On the sides of the tall platform, the court officials were standing with their hands in a fist and palm salute. Below the platform,

members of the Xiao family were excited as they watched the slow approach of the homecoming troops and were unable to suppress their joyful feelings.

Xiao Meng took off his helmet and walked onto the tall platform. Then he stopped in front of the emperor, knelt down on one knee, then put his hands together in a fist and palm salute and said, "Your servant did not fail Your Majesty's orders. We eliminated over ten thousand members of the Death Soul Palace, killed hundreds of Death Soul Palace experts above third grade Battle-Maniac, captured six of their leaders alive, and triumphantly returned."

"Good! Good! Good! My dear subject, you are truly the pillar of the Light Wind Empire. As long as you are around, my empire is safe!"

The Emperor Ji Changfeng laughed and did not hesitate to give praises.

Soon, a few rituals were neatly and tidily carried out. Everyone meticulously completed their jobs.

"The welcome ceremony has ended. We will now move to the Main Hall to enjoy the celebration feast," the sharp voice of the eunuch resounded throughout the city once more.

.....

Bu Fang opened his sleepy eyes. He woke up earlier than usual that day, mainly because he was woken up by the two shouts of a eunuch that came out of nowhere.

After Bu Fang finished washing up, he went into the kitchen and started his daily cooking practice. He took a portion of his practice dishes and served it to the big black dog at the entrance.

As he expressionlessly watched the big black dog gobble down the food, he suddenly had a strange feeling: he felt that he was treating the dog like it was a lord.

After opening up to the store for business, Bu Fang yawned, grabbed a chair and sat down, then started to wait for customers to arrive.

However, after an hour passed... the store was still deserted and without any customer. It was slightly unbelievable for a store that was teeming with customers in the past few days.

"There's something strange going on today. Why isn't there even a single customer? Normally, Fatty Jin and his fat army would have already finished eating and would be paying the bill by now.

"And the little loli did not turn up for work as well. Did the waitress and the diners disappear at the same time or something?"

Bu Fang was silent for a moment, then finally went into the kitchen. He suddenly remembered that Xiaoyi seemed to have

mentioned that "Xiao-something" was returning to the imperial city and that she needed to apply for leave.

However, why were the customers missing as well? That was what Bu Fang was concerned about.

The truth was that the customers who ate at his store were all people with status. To celebrate the triumphant homecoming of Xiao Meng, the emperor set up a celebration feast at the Main Hall and invited every renowned and influential person in the imperial city. As Fatty Jin and the rest had all gone to the palace to attend the celebration, it was natural that they were not at the store.

Bu Fang opened up the environment simulation cabinet, then took out an earthen jar—that had half a human's height—and placed it in the middle of the kitchen.

"It takes three days for the wine to be completed, and it has been three days since I placed this jar into the cabinet. This Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine should be ready." Bu Fang suddenly remembered that he was still brewing a jar of wine. He originally planned to take it out that night, but since there were no customers, he decided to take a look.

Taking out three small earthen jars prepared by the system, he was ready to unseal the jar and filter the wine.

In the same instant as he removed the cloth cover that was sealing the earthen jar, a burst of wine aroma gushed out of the jar and rushed into his face.

After deeply inhaling the wine aroma, Bu Fang was slightly shaking as a soft redness appeared on his face.

"The aroma is rich but does not irritate the nose, and strong but not overwhelming... " Bu Fang already had made an evaluation and was slightly joyous.

Taking out a bamboo ladle prepared by the system, Bu Fang reached into the earthen jar and scooped out half a ladle of wine. The exterior of the ladle was verdant while the interior was a yellowish beige. The wine itself was as clear as water, without any impurities to be seen.

As expected of the wine produced by the magnificent Nine Brewing Method, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was true to its name and was as clear as the water found in deep ravines.

Bu Fang brought the ladle closer to his nose and took a deep breath. The rich and thick wine aroma immediately filled his nasal cavities. Before he even drank a single sip of the wine, he was already salivating and slightly intoxicated.

As he poured the wine from the ladle into a blue and white porcelain wine cup, the stream of wine was pristine and transparent, like top-quality wine.

Bu Fang eagerly lifted up the wine cup and brought it to his lips. As the wine entered his mouth, it enveloped his tongue and instantly flowed down his throat. A cold feeling spread through his

entire body, then in the next moment, it was like a raging fire was burning in his stomach. Just when the flames were going to overwhelm him, he felt a cold feeling reappearing once more. The heat and the cold were constantly alternating...

"Good wine!" Bu Fang smacked his lips with his face filled with enjoyment. Even though he was not knowledgeable when it came to wine, it was the best wine that he had ever tasted.

However, even though the taste was delicious, the aftereffect was too strong. After all, with its complicated brewing process, it was natural that the aftereffect would be strong.

Suppressing the urge to continue drinking, Bu Fang filled up the three small earthen jars and covered them with cloth covers. After pasting a rectangular red paper with the character, "Ice", written on it, the work was finished.

After especially keeping a jar of wine for himself, Bu Fang placed the earthen jar back into the environment simulation cabinet. He was holding the wine cup in his hands as he happily walked back to the front of the store, planning to slowly enjoy it on his own.

However, when he left the kitchen, he discovered someone standing at the entrance. It was a man in black clothing with a [black-veiled bamboo hat](#) and a long sword—wrapped in a rag—on his back.

Black-veiled bamboo hat (黑纱斗笠) - It's basically a bamboo hat with a veil hanging from the edges to hide the face of the users.

A hoarse voice came out of the man's mouth, with a trace of yearning.

"Shop owner, do you have good wine here?"

Chapter 36: He Drinks The Bejewelled Nectar, I Taste The Ice Heart Jade Urn

The hoarse voice contained a slight chill and was rough like sandpaper.

Yearning and eagerness could be detected from the other party's tone.

"There's wine, of course," Bu Fang nodded and said. He wanted to slowly enjoy the wine, but since there was a customer, he put down the wine cup from his hands.

That man delightedly stepped into the store, sat down at a table, and hoarsely said, "Owner, give me a jar of wine."

Bu Fang expressionlessly acknowledged with a nod. Then he turned to look at the menu and there was a new dish on it.

"Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, fifteen crystals per jar."

"It's only fifteen crystals? It's really not expensive." Bu Fang was startled, but quickly understood the reason. Even though the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was a fine wine, the ingredients used were not that expensive compared to the other dishes.

It's only selling point was the tedious manufacturing process of the Nine Brewing Method. As for the ingredients, they were

considered ordinary. The rice used was a superior type of spirit rice, but was not much better than the Pearl Rice used in Egg-Fried Rice.

"System, isn't the price too cheap?" Bu Fang silently asked the system.

"The price set by the system is reasonable. It is determined by the combination of ingredients, process, and time. The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is still a mundane wine after all, so the price won't be too high. Compared to fruit wine and spirit wine made from high grade ingredients, there'll still be quite a difference in price. Fifteen crystals is already the maximum for a mundane wine," the system solemnly explained.

Bu Fang nodded to indicate that he understood.

"The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine will cost fifteen crystals per jar," Bu Fang expressionlessly said to the man wearing the bamboo hat.

"Fifteen crystals?" The man seemed to be slightly surprised. It seemed slightly ridiculous for a jar of wine to cost fifteen crystals. However, when he looked at the menu, he became silent.

After a while, he said, "I'll have a jar. When I passed by the alleyway earlier on, I was suddenly attracted by the smell of a rich wine aroma that was drifting out. I hope the wine here is worthy of its price."

Quality goods did not need advertising. The corner of Bu Fang's mouth slightly curled up.

"You won't be disappointed by my wine," Bu Fang confidently replied. Then he walked back into the kitchen and took out a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from a cabinet.

The small earthen jar was actually not that big and was even smaller than the ordinary jars used to store wine. Bu Fang placed the jar of wine in front of the man wearing the bamboo hat and simply said, "Here's your wine."

The man nodded, then slowly took off his black-veiled bamboo hat and finally unveiled his face.

Bu Fang was slightly surprised by the other party's facial features. Just from looking at the profile, the man seemed familiar to him.

As the other party took off the bamboo hat, a beautiful with a refined aura was revealed. He had a handsome face with eyes as bright as stars and a mouth that smiled naturally.

"That's right! This guy actually resembles that sissy, Xiao Xiaolong!"

"Owner, why are you looking at me like that?" The man chuckled and hoarsely asked.

"You look familiar, that's all. Enjoy your drink," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied. Then he sat down and began to enjoy his own cup of wine.

The man was unconcerned as well. His throat slightly moved as he removed the cloth cover of the wine jar.

A rich wine aroma instantly gushed out like the eruption of a volcano and rushed through his nostrils into the depths of his heart. He was wholeheartedly indulging in the aroma.

He started pouring the wine into the blue and white porcelain wine cup given by Bu Fang. The crystal-clear wine was as pristine as clear springs found in deep mountains and was not murky in the slightest.

"Good wine!" the man was unable to suppress his joy as he softly exclaimed. Then he carefully lifted up the wine cup and slowly drank from it.

As the wine flowed down his throat, it instantly opened up the pores in his body. He violently exhaled as his eyes lit up and were filled with incredulity.

He was completely captivated by the rich aroma and the ice and fire feeling of the wine.

"Good wine! It's comparable to the Bejewelled Nectar Wine from the imperial palace!" the man praised it once more.

It was strong, mellow, and aromatic! It was even able to stimulate the true energy within the body! It was definitely worth more than the fifteen crystals!

"Haha! I didn't think that I would be able to find such a fine wine, I am really lucky! They're drinking the Bejewelled Nectar in the palace, while I am tasting the Ice Heart Jade Urn here. I am not losing out at all." The man laughed and poured another cup of wine. Drinking it down in one go, the spiciness in his throat caused a touch of redness to appear on his fair skin.

Bu Fang was much more refined as he pleasantly sipped from the wine cup. His drinking capacity was not that good, so he only filled a small cup of wine.

"Owner, do you have any dish that goes well with wine?" the man finished a cup of wine, then turned to Bu Fang—who was sipping from the wine cup—and asked.

"No," Bu Fang simply replied.

A slight disappointment appeared on his face, but quickly disappeared as he continued with his drinking.

"Why are you still open for business today? Why didn't you go to watch the homecoming of the Great General Xiao Meng?" the man asked Bu Fang. He was much more talkative after drinking a few cups of wine.

"What does his homecoming have to do with me?" Bu Fang calmly replied.

The man suddenly went into a daze, then started laughing and seemed to be really happy.

"The owner is a hot-blooded person. Let me give you a toast." The man laughed and drank down a cup of wine.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he continued to leisurely sip from his wine cup.

Someone once said that there were two methods to drink wine. The first method was purely drinking the wine. It was just pouring the wine into the mouth and tasting the mellowness.

The other method was drinking emotions instead of wine. Drinking wine when having different emotions would produce different tastes. That was how a person who truly knew wine would drink.

When someone drank when he was in love, he would be overjoyed. When someone drank when he was angry, he would be daunting even if he was not angry. When someone drank when he was sorrowful, he would become melancholy. When someone drank when he was happy, he would not be able to stop drinking.

"That's right, what does his homecoming have to do with you?"

No matter how glorious he is, he's still an executioner with blood-stained hands. He's still just a sharp blade in the hands of Ji Changfeng." The man suddenly became melancholy as he rapidly drank cup after cup.

"This is someone with a story," Bu Fang blinked and thought as he continued to sip from his wine cup.

After that, the man spoke very little as he continued to constantly pour and drink the wine. Soon, a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was finished and the man seemed to be slightly intoxicated as his eyes turned cloudy.

The intensity of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was unimaginable for Bu Fang. He might be able to drink half a jar of ordinary wine, but he would only be able to drink three cups of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine at most.

However, this man was able to completely finish the entire jar and was only slightly intoxicated. His drinking capacity was truly shocking.

"Owner, there's no more wine! Get me another jar," the man said with a frown.

"Each person is limited to one jar," Bu Fang simply replied. He was also finished with the cup of wine in his hands and his face was slightly flushed.

The man banged on the table with his hand and lightly belched as dozens of crystals appeared on the table. "Owner, the amount of crystals is not a problem. Get me another jar."

"The store's rules: each person is limited to one jar," Bu Fang remained unmoved as he expressionlessly replied.

The man frowned, then his hand suddenly banged on the table and the sword that was wrapped up in a rag immediately came out of its sheath.

The cry of the sword incessantly resounded like a dragon's roar within the store.

The man was holding the sword with one hand as he pointed it at Bu Fang. The tip of the sword was only an inch away from Bu Fang's nose and he could even feel the chill emanating from it.

Faint goosebumps instantly covered Bu Fang's entire body, but he remained expressionless.

"Do you know who I am? Do you really dare to not provide wine to me?" The man teasingly said with a smile.

"Why should I care who you are? Are you trying to cause trouble?" Bu Fang simply replied. Even though the tip of the sword was only an inch away, he remained unmoved by it.

The man watched Bu Fang for a while, then sheathed the

longsword and wrapped it back in the rags. The sword energy that was raging within the store moments ago vanished.

"The owner is truly a strange person. Here is thirty crystals, I am reserving tomorrow's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine," the man said with a laugh. Then he put on his bamboo hat, slung his longsword behind his back and headed toward the entrance.

As he reached the entrance, he asked, "Does the owner really not know who I am?"

"I don't know and there's no need for me to know. Anyone who enters my store is a customer. I'll welcome anyone as long as they don't cause trouble," Bu Fang seriously said.

"Hahaha! Good! I, Xiao Yue of the Void Sword Pavilion, acknowledge you as a friend!" The man laughed as he suddenly stepped out of the entrance and disappeared into the windy autumn.

"Xiao Yue? His surname is Xiao..." Bu Fang pondered. However, he pursed his lips and muttered to himself, "What an egoistic fellow. Who acknowledged you as a friend?"

As he finished muttering, the voice of the system suddenly rang out in his mind...

Chapter 37: Sweet 'N' Sour Ribs And Meteor Knife Technique

"My host, congratulations for earning five hundred crystals and completing a short-term objective, you shall soon receive the system reward. The system reward is being released..."

The system's solemn voice rang out in Bu Fang's mind, startling him and waking him up from his slight intoxication.

He did not even realize that so many days had passed and he had already earned five hundred crystals. Even Bu Fang's expressionless face twitched and a smile appeared as the corners of his mouth curled up.

"Young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, congratulations for completing a short-term sales mission. You have once again taken a step to achieving your goal. Reward: Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs cooking method, Meteor Knife Technique training method, and one fragment of the God of Cooking Set."

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs?!"

When Bu Fang heard the solemn voice of the system say this phrase, he subconsciously swallowed his saliva. He was very familiar with this dish, because it was one of his favorite dishes back on Earth.

Bu Fang was joyous that he finally unlocked a new dish and it was

even the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. He was so excited that he was walking on air.

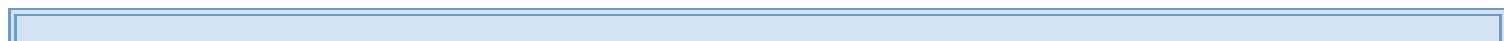
A delicious dish of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs would be extremely fragrant and the meat would be tangerine in color. The taste would be sour-sweet and would be crispy on the outside while remaining tender in the inside. As one bit down on it, the rich fragrance of the meat would create an aromatic explosion in their mouths and mesmerize them.

The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was a dish that captivated people.

Bu Fang endured the urge to immediately start cooking the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and checked the training method for the Meteor Knife Technique instead. Strictly speaking, he was not an amateur when it came to handling knives. After all, he had been cooking for many years and had grasped his own set of knife techniques.

"Meteor Knife Technique training method: As a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, you need to be superb with your knife skills. The knife skill training mode will now be activated. Completing the daily knife skill training will award you with knife skill level experience points and improve your knife skill. When you master the Meteor Knife Technique, your knife will be as swift as a meteorite as you precisely and perfectly cut any ingredient into equal pieces."

Bu Fang was startled, then the character panel naturally appeared in his mind.



Host: Bu Fang

True Energy Cultivation Level: Third Grade (Has already achieved the ability to manifest true energy outside of the body. As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Yet to be unlocked

Skills: Level One Meteor Knife Technique (0/100)

Tools: Fragments of God of Cooking Set (3/4)

God of Cooking overall rating: Apprentice Chef (You can finally cook ingredients with your true energy. Practice your knife skills and the road to becoming the God of Cooking will open for you. Work hard, young man.)

System Level: Three Stars (Conversion ratio is at twenty-five percent, customers are allowed to bring ingredients lower than fourth grade.)

After Bu Fang finished reading the updated panel, he took a deep breath and exhaled to calm his agitation.

As he lifted up his hand and exerted his will, he felt a snake-like

burst of energy swiftly flowing through one of the meridians in his body and gushing out from his palm like a stream of white gas.

Manifestation of true energy! That was the manifestation of true energy! Bu Fang's mouth was wide open in shock. He felt as if he was an expert in the novels and it felt unreal to him.

In order to become a third grade Battle-Maniac, he needed the energy of a hundred crystals and he had earned five hundred crystals. The conversion ratio, when the system level was Two Stars, was at twenty percent. After conversion, the true energy he gained was worth a hundred crystals. Thus, he was able to break through and become a Battle-Maniac.

Bu Fang had just become a second grade Battle-Master a few days ago, and now, he had just broken through once more. Even he found it to be slightly difficult to believe.

If someone else was to witness this, they would be even more astonished.

However, Bu Fang's astonishment did not last long and he quickly calmed down. He was different from the others. Even though his true energy level was at third grade, if he were to fight against Xiao Xiaolong, he would be easily defeated. That was to say that his cultivation level might be high, but his fighting prowess was worthless.

"However, so what if I am useless at fighting? I have Whitey," Bu Fang thought.

"System, how much true energy do I need to reach fourth grade?" Bu Fang asked.

"Fourth grade Battle-Spirit requires a thousand crystals. Fifth grade Battle-King requires ten thousand crystals. Sixth grade Battle-Emperor requires a hundred thousand crystals." the system solemnly replied to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang clutched his chest as he resisted the urge to vomit blood... How frustrating! How many plates of egg-fried rice would he need to sell to get a hundred thousand crystals? It was definitely more than enough for him to sell until his old age.

"It looks like my hopes of covertly acting conceited using my cultivation level in the future is dashed..." Bu Fang regretfully said with a sigh.

"If a sixth grade Battle-Emperor needed a hundred thousand crystals, then a seventh grade Battle-Saint would need a million crystals... My heavens, a million crystals! If it was piled into a mountain, it could even crush me to death.

"If I continue calculating, an eighth grade War-God... Good heavens!"

Bu Fang shuddered and did not dare to continue thinking about it. He calmed down. Whatever seventh grade or eighth grade was something completely unrelated to him at this point. There was no need for him to think about it right now. Bu Fang felt that his

current life was not bad.

After the opening hours was over, Bu Fang immediately closed the store's entrance and headed into the kitchen to do some research on the tantalizing Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

...

Main hall of the imperial palace.

The doors of the majestic main hall were wide open as row upon row of slim and beautiful court ladies entered while carrying delicious dishes into the hall.

As [the sound of the pipa](#) resounded in the air, [the sound of the se](#) responded in kind.

Pipa(琵琶) - It is a Chinese string instrument that is also known as Chinese lute.

Se(锦) - It is a Chinese plucked zither.

The scene within the main hall was filled with festivity.

At the highest point in the main hall, the emperor was sitting on a gold-colored wooden [zen chair](#). The table in front of him was filled with delicious dishes while two beautiful court ladies were gently waving a fan.

Zen chair(禅椅) - It's a short wooden chair with a low back, where people would sit cross-legged on it.

Seated below the emperor, on the left was the handsome and talented Great General Xiao Meng and the smiling crown prince, Ji Chengan. On the right was the second prince, King Yu, and the third prince, Ji Chengxue; the mood between the two princes was slightly cold and awkward.

Further below them were the court officials of the Light Wind Empire and the prestigious guests invited to the feast.

The family members of the Xiao and Ouyang families were seated together. Ouyang Xiaoyi was sitting next to Xiao Yanyu and was chatting with her.

Xiao Xiaolong, on the other hand, was excitedly staring at a sapphire jar that was storing the wine, the Bejewelled Nectar.

Like Xiao Xiaolong, the three barbarians of Ouyang were licking their lips as they stared at the wine jar.

There was a similarity between the two families and that was the dishes in front of them, which were relatively untouched. It was a strange sight within the main hall.

These dishes were all personally prepared by the imperial kitchen's chefs. The taste was definitely delicious and it could be said to be the most delicious food within the Light Wind Empire. However, the Xiao siblings and Ouyang siblings all stopped eating after they each took a single bite.

"This dish tastes really bad. It's far worse than the smelly boss' food..." Ouyang Xiaoyi said as she disdainfully used her chopsticks to play around with a piece of fish. She had no appetite at all.

Even though the same disdainful look did not appear on Xiao Yanyu's beautiful face, there was no sign that her chopsticks were going to move. She was only calmly watching the scene within the main hall.

"The only reason that we're here is for the Bejewelled Nectar Wine. If it wasn't for the fact that Owner Bu's store doesn't have wine, I wouldn't even bother to come to the feast today. These dishes can't even compare to Owner Bu's Egg-Fried Rice!" Xiao Xiaolong said with a sigh.

When the three barbarians of Ouyang heard what he said, they fiercely nodded and Ouyang Zhen said, "Owner Bu's Lees Fish is truly delicious, even people like us with bland taste buds were subdued!"

"Tch! You're just exaggerating. How could a lousy store like that have any delicious food?" Zhao Ruge was just elegantly sitting nearby. When he heard the conservation, he immediately sneered at them.

"What are you laughing at! If I say it's delicious, then it's delicious!" Ouyang Zhen said while angrily staring at Zhao Ruge.

"The chefs of the imperial kitchen were personally selected by

His Majesty from among famous chefs within the empire. They went through numerous strict screening to become an imperial chef. How could a mere chef from a restaurant in an alleyway compare to them? If you're praising him, are you suggesting that His Majesty is unable to discern talent?" Zhao Ruge simply said.

Even though Ouyang Xiaoyi felt that the smelly boss was a terrible person, she did not like it when someone said bad things about him. Her large eyes were staring at Zhao Ruge as she poutingly said, "Have you eaten smelly boss' dishes? If you haven't eaten it before, then be quiet!"

Zhao Ruge's expression froze and he felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest.

"The next dish, the Bejewelled Nectar Wine!"

Just when Zhao Ruge was about to retaliate, the sharp voice of a eunuch resounded out. Then all of the guests started cheering as the climax of the feast finally arrived.

Zhao Ruge snorted, then pointed toward the sapphire jars that were stacked together and said, "Do you see the Bejewelled Nectar Wine? Just this wine is enough to compare against all of the dishes in that entire restaurant!"

Bejewelled Nectar Wine was the number one wine in the Light Wind Empire... He was that confident in it!

Chapter 38: A Loli With A Venomous Tongue Would Not Be Able To Get Married

"What did you say?!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was very unhappy as she yelled and stared at Zhao Ruge while pouting her lips.

"How could the Bejewelled Nectar Wine compare to the smelly boss' entire restaurant? Is this Zhao Ruge an idiot? Does he really understand the smelly boss' restaurant? Even though the Bejewelled Nectar Wine was expensive, a jar was only five hundred gold coins. That's not even comparable to a plate of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice!" Ouyang Xiaoyi thought.

"Ouyang Xiaoyi, did I say something wrong? How much could a store located in a godforsaken alleyway be worth anyway?" Zhao Ruge said with a sneer as he ignored the loli's furious gaze.

"Hmph! Your words just exposed the fact that you've never tasted the smelly boss' dishes!" Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted and disdainfully turned her head. "If you had really tasted them, then you wouldn't have said that. You can try asking anyone who has tasted Owner Bu's dishes and see if their answer is as ignorant as yours."

"Ignorance isn't scary. What's scary is that you're acting conceited when you don't know anything!"

Zhao Ruge's handsome face turned sour and was so exasperated that he almost vomited blood. How did he not realize before that this Ouyang Xiaoyi had such a venomous tongue! A loli with a venomous tongue would not be able to get married!

When Xiao Yanyu and the rest saw the disgraced Zhao Ruge, they could not help but burst out laughing. This made Zhao Ruge's face turn ever more sour and he felt as if the entire world was laughing at him.

And like he thought, Xiao Yanyu and the rest were laughing at his ignorance.

"Young masters, this is the Bejewelled Nectar Wine bestowed by His Majesty. Please give it a taste." Several slim and beautiful court ladies with voices as soft as foam were carrying sapphire jars as they slowly approached each table and carefully poured out the wine.

"The Bejewelled Nectar Wine is so in demand that even the imperial city is only supplied with two thousand jars each year at most. This time, His Majesty took out five hundred jars to celebrate General Xiao's victory. You people should properly taste such a fine wine that you would never be able to taste in that pathetic little store!" Zhao Ruge lifted up the wine cup and sneered.

Xiao Xiaolong and the three barbarians of Ouyang were already captivated by the appearance of the wine.

"Hmph! Who told you that the smelly boss doesn't have any wine? He's brewing it right now!" Now wanting to admit defeat, Ouyang Xiaoyi said.

Zhao Ruge's eyes lit up. "Oh, then let's have a wager. How about

we bet whether the wine in that store can compare with the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?"

"Wager? Are you trying to bet with our little sister?!" Before Ouyang Xiaoyi could accept the bet, the three barbarians of Ouyang were infuriated.

The Ouyang family had always been paying close attention to the ideological education of their descendants and were especially strict with Ouyang Xiaoyi. Normally, they would be urging her to practice martial arts and embroidery to develop her into a virtuous, beautiful, intelligent, athletic young woman.

"The first thing this Zhao Ruge mentioned was a wager; is he trying to misguide our little sister?"

"I'll accept your wager," the three barbarians of Ouyang were able to prevent Ouyang Xiaoyi from accepting the bet, but the quiet Xiao Yanyu suddenly opened her delicate, red lips and softly said.

Everyone was shocked that the goddess, Xiao Yanyu, would accept the wager with Zhao Ruge.

"Excellent! And if the goddess loses, you will be accompanying me for moon-viewing aboard a boat for a night. How about it?" Zhao Ruge was elated. He just realised that even the reserved and cool-headed Xiao Yanyu could be impulsive at times.

Xiao Yanyu faintly smiled. Her beautiful face was as pretty as a

picture and captivated anyone who was looking at her.

"Fine, but if you lose, you'll give me a fifth grade Spirit Gathering Pill," Xiao Yanyu indifferently said. Her voice that was as beautiful as the song of birds sounded like thunder as it resounded in Zhao Ruge's ears.

"This... A fifth grade Spirit Gathering Pill is a little..." Zhao Ruge was slightly hesitating. Honestly speaking, wagering a Spirit Gathering Pill was not something he could afford to do.

"You bastard, you were so full of it when you were trying to wager with my sister. Now that the goddess is wagering with you, you're acting like a dog? Are you looking down on my sister or something?" Ouyang Zhen shouted while pointing at Zhao Ruge.

"He's afraid of losing," Ouyang Xiaoyi said with a sneer as she crossed her arms across her chest.

Lose? Would he really lose? Would the calculating Zhao Ruge, who devised a strategy to kill a fifth grade Battle-King—when he was only a third grade Battle-Maniac—really be afraid of losing... No, would he really lose?

"I accept! There's no way that kind of store would have any decent wine at all," Zhao Ruge said with a snort.

.....

As the celebration feast was ongoing in the main hall, Bu Fang was merrily sharpening his knife in the kitchen.

He took out an ingredient prepared by the system from the freezer.

The part of the boar used in the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was the meat near the spine. The spine would first be chopped into pieces and starch would be applied to it. Then, each piece would be deep fried in a wok filled with oil. Finally, a special sweet and sour sauce would be poured onto it to complete the dish.

The prime rib placed on the chopping board was not the same as the one used in the Golden Shumai, the Flame Boar. The fat and tender ribs were filled with spirit energy and the marbling was clear like a piece of drawing. It was obviously not an ordinary piece of pork.

"This pork comes from a fifth grade spirit beast that roams in Mount Tiandang, the Flying Cloud Boar. It was named for the white patches on its black fur that resembled clouds and its fast movement speed. The Flying Cloud Boar has strong and muscular thighs that taste terrible. However, the meat around the area of its spine is not only fresh and tender, but is filled with spirit energy as well. The quality of the meat is excellent."

"The meat of a fifth grade spirit beast... This is very precious." Bu Fang's eyes lit up as he picked up a kitchen knife and tried to chop up the prime ribs. Surprisingly, the ribs remained intact and the rebound force even caused Bu Fang's arm to go numb.

"As expected, the meat of a fifth grade spirit beast is truly extraordinary..." Bu Fang said with a sigh, then he continued to persevere in chopping and tenderizing the meat...

After separating the prime ribs into individual ribs, he placed them into starch paste that he had just prepared. The source of the starch paste was remarkable as well. It was made from a spirit potato found in the central wastelands of the Light Wind Empire.

After all of the pieces of meat were coated in starch, Bu Fang began to prepare a wok filled with oil. He used a high quality oil to fill up half of the wok and waited for the temperature to rise.

Holding his palm above the surface of the oil, he could feel the heat coming from it. When the heat was just hot enough to scald his hand, Bu Fang placed all of the starch-coated ribs into the wok.

Pssst!

As the pieces of meat were quickly turning within the oil, the starch on the exterior started to rapidly turn light yellow...

Bu Fang was using a long chopstick to constantly turn each piece of meat. He was skillfully ensuring that every single piece was being perfectly cooked to ensure they all had the same taste.

As the starch on the exterior of every piece started to turn into a darker shade of yellow, Bu Fang scooped all of them up and placed

them into a big pottery bowl. There was still oil seeping out from the starch on the surface.

Bu Fang was experienced with making the sweet and sour sauce. The system had already prepared the needed ingredients and the amount used was left up to him.

Very quickly, the tangerine sweet and sour sauce was prepared and the pieces of meat inside the big pottery bowl had also slightly cooled down. Even though there was still steam coming from them, oil had stopped seeping from the starch. He poured the sweet and sour sauce into the big pottery bowl, then stirred it for a while and was ready to place it on a plate.

From pouring the sweet and sour sauce to lightly mixing the pieces of meat, the entire process should not exceed thirty seconds. This really tested Bu Fang's skills, as he needed to be fast to ensure that each piece was evenly coated with the sauce.

Placing the pieces of meat onto the oval blue and white porcelain plate, a delicious, aromatic, tantalizing plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was completed.

A sweet and sour fragrance was drifting in the air and was continuously rushing into his nasal cavities, making him unable to help but swallow his saliva.

Grabbing a pair of bamboo chopsticks, Bu Fang carried the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs to the dining area. As he walked, the fragrance would constantly drift to his face, causing him to salivate

and increasing his eagerness to taste the dish.

The fragrance of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was very rich and was a mixture of sweet, sour and meat.

The big black dog lying at the entrance was sleeping, but its eyes suddenly opened. They were so bright that it was like a light bulb was turned on in the darkness. Within an instant, the dog disappeared into the store.

And so, as Bu Fang was about to send a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs into his mouth, he realized that a pair of bright doggy eyes was staring at... the piece of meat clasped between his chopsticks.

Chapter 39: Slicing A Thousand Radishes

They were as bright as a full moon in darkness and as clear as a white spot in black ink.

The eyes of the big black dog were staring straight at the steaming piece of ribs—coated with the tangerine sweet and sour sauce and exuding a tempting fragrance—between Bu Fang's chopsticks.

The craving bursting out from the eyes of the dog made Bu Fang jump up in shock.

"My gosh! Blacky, do you know how frightening it is when you suddenly appear like that?" Bu Fang's hand trembled and almost dropped the piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

Blacky's tongue was hanging out of its mouth as it stared at Bu Fang.

"Do you want to eat this?" Bu Fang expressionlessly waved the piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs around and Blacky cooperatively nodded its head with its tongue hanging out.

Bu Fang's stiff face was unmoved as the corner of his mouth widened into a smile. Then he opened his mouth and shoved the fat and tender Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs into his mouth in one go.

His entire mouth was bulging with the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs as he

started to bite down and chew. There was even some tangerine sweet and sour sauce stains on his lips.

Blacky's eyes had been staring at that Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. When it discovered Bu Fang was about to eat the piece of rib, its eyes turned dark and lost its will to continue living as it felt the entire sky was about to collapse.

"How infuriating! This human is definitely doing this on purpose!" Blacky thought.

For the sake of that piece of rib, Blacky was enraged. Its hackles were raised as it bared its teeth while staring at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang, at that moment, did not have the time to care about Blacky. The extremely good taste of the meat of the Flying Cloud Boar was bursting out from within his mouth. The rich fragrance of the meat was like a bomb as it instantly exploded and completely collapsed his taste buds.

The perfectly-done sweet and sour sauce flawlessly mixed with high-grade pork was neither too sour nor too sweet.

The texture of the meat was not hard and after a perfectly controlled deep-fry, it became appropriately crispy. The taste of the starch coating mixed with pork was extremely delicious.

The pork used was the meat near the spine and had become soft and tender after Bu Fang had sufficiently tenderized it. There was

even some crunchy cartilage mixed inside, which made creaking sounds when chewed and also slightly increased its tastiness.

Bu Fang's eyes completely lit up as his chopsticks picked up another piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and shoved it into his mouth with lightning speed. His eyes were narrowed as he enjoyably chewed the ribs in his mouth while being captivated within the sea of fragrance.

The big black dog was furious! It was shaking its tail as it paced around. Its doggy eyes were filled with conflict as it thought, "Should I directly snatch the ribs from this foolish human?

"No, what if this human refuses to feed this handsome dog later? This handsome dog's taste has already been spoiled by the foolish human's cooking!

"Should I snatch it? Or should I not snatch it?" As the amount of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs rapidly disappeared from the blue and white porcelain plate, Blacky felt as if its heart was constantly being emptied...

Finally, there was only a single piece left on the plate.

Bu Fang's chopsticks had already slowly landed on that final piece of rib. As the chopsticks clamped onto the meat, the sweet and sour sauce coated on it splattered everywhere and filled the air with a fragrant scent.

Blacky's eyes were almost filled with tears as it stared at the final piece!

Bu Fang's mouth was still chewing; his expression was both comical and hilarious, and might be his most colorful expression ever.

"Here, take it. It looks like I am still too kind-hearted." Bu Fang simply said as he handed over the final piece to Blacky.

Blacky was immediately overjoyed. Its doggy eyes were filled with an inexplicable light as it ate the piece of rib in one bite.

The rich aroma of the meat bursted out within Blacky's mouth and its entire body shivered. With a face filled with pleasure, it lightly howled out.

Bu Fang was dumbfounded... How did it turn from a dog into a wolf just by eating a piece of meat?

After swallowing the piece of rib, Blacky was still slightly unsatisfied. However, that heinous Bu Fang had already finished all of the ribs. It could only helplessly return to the entrance and resume its sleep.

Bu Fang leisurely cleaned up the plate and went to bed.

The next morning, Bu Fang got out of bed early.

He went into the kitchen after washing up. He specially got up earlier that day in order to practice the Meteor Knife Technique mentioned by the system. From the sound of it, it seemed pretty impressive.

The moment Bu Fang entered the kitchen, his line of sight was immediately attracted by a kitchen knife that was both thick and big.

"Please slice a thousand radishes using this custom-made kitchen knife within an hour. Every single piece should be exactly the same. After finishing, you shall be awarded with ten points of Meteor Knife Technique Proficiency," the system solemnly said.

Slicing a thousand radishes within an hour and each piece had to be exactly the same... It was almost an impossible mission for an ordinary chef, but it was not that difficult for Bu Fang.

However, when he grabbed the thick and big custom-made kitchen knife, his entire face darkened.

The kitchen knife made from unknown materials was extremely heavy. When using a single hand, Bu Fang could only lift it up. It would be too difficult if he had to use this kitchen knife to complete the mission.

"System, are you deliberately making things difficult for me?" Bu Fang asked the system with a cold expression.

"As a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, are you telling me that you can't take a little hardship? The road to becoming the God of Cooking isn't easy. Young man, you need to learn to endure hardships. The system thinks highly of you, work hard," the system seriously encouraged him, causing Bu Fang to be dumbfounded.

He knew that arguing with the system was pointless, so he could only train according to the requirements.

Retrieving a white and plump radish, Bu Fang lifted the kitchen knife and started to skillfully dice it. The radish was only an ordinary white radish, but the quality was extremely good and was both succulent and plump.

After the first radish was done, Bu Fang expressionlessly grabbed the second one and immediately started dicing it. Since he had already started the training, then he would wholeheartedly engage in it. Knife skill was actually a type of skill that needed attentiveness and that was the only way to perfect the skill.

And so, the sound of a kitchen knife colliding with a chopping board rang out from Fang Fang's Little Store since early in the morning.

.....

"Eh? Smelly boss didn't open the store for business today?"

As Ouyang Xiaoyi and the rest arrived at Fang Fang's Little Store, they discovered that there was already a group of people queuing up at the entrance. Many of them were trying to peek into the store with faces filled with doubt.

"Hmph! Don't tell me he found out about our wager and is afraid of opening for business?" Zhao Ruge, dressed in white, was elegantly sneering.

"Owner Bu is afraid? Are you here to make jokes? You just have to obediently wait and hand over the fifth grade Spirit Gathering Pill to elder sister Yanyu!" the little loli snorted in reply.

The three barbarians of Ouyang and the Xiao siblings were there as well. They were also baffled by the fact that the store was not open for business yet.

"It could be that Owner Bu was delayed by some matter." Xiao Yanyu gently said with her beautiful voice, "Let's wait for a while."

Just as her voice faded, the entrance of the store suddenly opened and Bu Fang expressionlessly appeared in front of their eyes.

"The store is open for business," Bu Fang simply said, then turned around and went back in.

There were only eight people in the queue and even after adding Zhao Ruge and the rest, there were only fifteen customers.

Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly ran in to help while taking the opportunity to conveniently inquire the smelly boss about the status of the wine brewing.

"Eh? Smelly boss, why does your hand keep shaking?" Ouyang Xiaoyi curiously stared at Bu Fang's hand that was continuously twitching.

Bu Fang glanced at her and simply said, "It's nothing, it'll be fine after a while."

His hand was shaking because he had been slicing radishes with that heavy kitchen knife for over an hour... It would be shaking even if he had used an ordinary kitchen knife, not to mention that heavy custom-made kitchen knife.

Soon, the system manipulated a stream of gentle energy to flow into Bu Fang's arm, causing the numbness and the spasm to disappear.

Fatty Jin and his buddies excitedly ordered their dishes and Xiaoyi did not immediately inform Bu Fang about the wager. After Fatty Jin and company were satisfied, it was finally the turn of Zhao Ruge and the rest who had just stepped into the store.

As Zhao Ruge stepped into the store, he suddenly had an inexplicable urge to cry... He would finally be able to taste the store's dishes!

"Smelly boss, this fellow is wagering that your wine is inferior to the imperial palace's Bejewelled Nectar!" As Zhao Ruge and the rest entered, Ouyang Xiaoyi loudly said to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was slightly startled, but then expressionlessly replied, "Bejewelled Nectar Wine... is nothing."

Chapter 40: Compared To My Wine, The Others Are Garbage

"The Bejewelled Nectar Wine is nothing?!" The moment those words were said, the mood within the store slightly froze.

The three barbarians of Ouyang and Xiao Xiaolong were staring at Bu Fang. They were wine lovers and the Bejewelled Nectar Wine was the best wine they had ever tasted. However, when coming out of Bu Fang's mouth, it was... nothing?

"Haha! Smelly boss, the way you said it was really handsome!" Ouyang Xiaoyi happily exclaimed while clapping her hands. She liked the kind of self-confident feeling that Bu Fang had.

"Tch, he's just a country bumpkin. Has he even tasted the Bejewelled Nectar Wine? He's only speaking nonsense." Zhao Ruge disdainfully snorted and pursed his lips. How could the owner of a little restaurant like Bu Fang know the taste of the number one wine in the Light Wind Empire that was personally picked out by the emperor from tens of thousands of wine?

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows and looked toward Zhao Ruge. He was very familiar with this fellow, only because Zhao Ruge had tried to bribe him with money over and over again.

"Compared to my wine... the other mundane wines are garbage."

Bu Fang simply said with bursting self-confidence. He was

absolutely confident of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

"Owner Bu, you have wine here?" Xiao Xiaolong's eyes lit up and a slight redness appeared on his fair face from agitation.

Bu Fang just pointed toward the menu behind him and did not say anything.

Everyone understood what he meant and turned their heads to look toward the menu...

"Sss~"

This sound was made by Zhao Ruge. It was his first time stepping into the store and his first time seeing the menu. Even though he had heard much about the astronomical prices of the dishes, he still sucked in a breath of cold air when he personally saw the prices.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and the rest immediately rolled their eyes at him. What a country bumpkin... Was there a need to act so surprised?

"Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, fifteen crystals per jar," Xiao Xiaolong softly read out.

"As expected, Owner Bu's dishes are expensive as usual," Xiao Yanyu let out a beautiful exclamation. Fifteen crystals per jar of wine was far more expensive than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine, which only cost five hundred gold coins.

With such a comparison between the two solely based on their prices, Bejewelled Nectar Wine was truly... nothing.

"Fifteen crystals per jar? Have you gone crazy? Are you sure your wine is worth this price?" Zhao Ruge could not believe it. Five hundred gold coins per jar for the Bejewelled Nectar Wine was already considered an astronomical price. Fifteen crystals... was practically insane!

"Owner Bu! There's no need to say anything else, I want a jar! Thankfully, my incredible foresight had already predicted that Owner Bu's wine would definitely not be cheap so I brought a lot of crystals," Xiao Xiaolong excitedly said toward Bu Fang.

"Owner Bu, the three of us want a jar as well! If the Lees Fish is already so delicious, then this wine is surely good as well!" Ouyang Zhen carefreely said.

Zhao Ruge raised his eyebrows as he looked toward Xiao Xiaolong and the three barbarians of Ouyang in surprise. They actually bought such an expensive wine... Could it be that the wine was really that good?

Immediately, Zhao Ruge made up his mind. He gritted his teeth and said, "I want a jar as well!"

"Hmph! I'd like to see for what reason a wine from such a place could actually sell for fifteen crystals!" Zhao Ruge thought.

"Excuse me, there's only three jars of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine for sale per day. If you want to order it, you'll have to come again tomorrow," Bu Fang indifferently glanced toward Zhao Ruge and expressionlessly said.

Zhao Ruge froze for a moment and his eyes were immediately filled with anger as he thought, "You're rejecting me again! Do you have a grudge against me?"

"Didn't you say that there are three jars per day? Since Xiao Xiaolong and the Ouyang brothers are buying two jars, isn't there one more jar left that you can sell to me? Are you looking down on me?"

Zhao Ruge was infuriated.

Facing the somewhat exasperated and furious Zhao Ruge, Bu Fang was slightly baffled and puzzled. However, his face was still indifferent as he replied, "The last jar is already reserved."

"Reserved? An excuse... That's definitely an excuse!" Zhao Ruge thought. Looking at that Bu Fang's expressionless face, he was tempted to throw his shoe at him. That face definitely deserved a beating!

"Then tell me, who reserved the third jar of wine? I'll go and throw money at him until he gives it up!" Zhao Ruge said with a gloomy expression.

"Oh, that's up to you. I don't care as long as you're not causing trouble within the store," Bu Fang simply said, then turned around and headed toward the kitchen. However, when he reached the entrance, he suddenly turned back and curiously asked, "Are you not going to order other dishes? Are you only going to drink?"

"I'd like to have Golden Shumai," Xiao Yanyu softly said.

Xiao Xiaolong was grinning as he ordered the improved Egg-Fried Rice. The three barbarians of Ouyang ordered a portion of Lees Fish as usual since that was the only dish they could taste.

"What about you?" Bu Fang's gaze landed on Zhao Ruge.

Zhao Ruge narrowed his eyes and said, "Give me the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs! If I am going to eat, I'll eat the most expensive dish!"

The others were surprised and that was when they realized that there was actually a new dish on the menu. Their attentions were all attracted by the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine just now.

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs? Hmm, alright." Bu Fang nodded and went into the kitchen.

The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, which cost fifty crystals, was the most expensive dish within the store so far.

"Zhao Ruge, did you bring enough crystals?" Ouyang Xiaoyi could not help but ask. Even the princess of the Ouyang family was slightly shocked by the price of fifty crystals for a dish.

"I don't lack money, so what if it costs fifty crystals? You better not forget about our wager. Yanyu, just wait for our moon-viewing boat trip." Zhao Ruge confidently smiled. As the son of the Minister of the Left, he had his personal properties within the imperial city. Fifty crystals was truly nothing to him.

Actually, when cultivators reached the level of fifth grade Battle-King, the crystals they needed for their cultivation were in the thousands. In order to achieve a breakthrough, they would even need to accumulate up to tens of thousands of crystals.

That was the reason why crystals were nothing to higher level cultivators. Even though Zhao Ruge was not a high level cultivator, he had a lot of properties. There was also the fact that the target market for his businesses were cultivators, so he did not lack crystals.

Zhao Ruge was faintly smiling as he sat down on a chair. He took out the sapphire jar, that contained the Bejewelled Nectar Wine, which he brought. He also brought his own wine cups and started to fill them. Then he beckoned toward Xiao Yanyu and the rest, and said, "Come and sit down. Let's taste the Bejewelled Nectar Wine first."

There was a reason why the Bejewelled Nectar Wine was selected by the emperor to be the royal wine and was rated as the number one wine in the Light Wind Empire. As soon as the cups were

filled, a rich wine aroma instantly diffused into the air.

Xiao Xiaolong and the three barbarians of Ouyang were already close to losing their restraints on themselves.

However, just when they were about to taste the Bejewelled Nectar Wine, a figure slowly stepped into the store. It was as if the composed footsteps were filled with a strange magic.

Everyone's gaze was attracted by that figure at the entrance.

Dressed in a black robe, he was carrying a longsword wrapped in a rag and wore a black-veiled bamboo hat. His tall and slim figure was exuding a mysterious aura.

The moment that person stepped into the store, it seemed as if the atmosphere had turned slightly colder.

The muscles on the three barbarians of Ouyang suddenly constricted as they alertly looked at the mysterious man wearing a bamboo hat. They could feel an extremely terrifying aura from him.

The aura caused the true energy within their body to automatically circulate... That was the self-defense mechanism that occurs during a crisis.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong were startled for a moment and they started to closely watch the man as well. They felt the gaze

behind the black veil seemed to have landed on them.

"Who are you?!" Zhao Ruge knitted his eyebrows and coldly asked. He felt that the man was slightly strange.

With the current unstable situation within the imperial city, many experts from the sects were hiding within. Perhaps... this man was an expert from the sects as well.

"Me? I am just a diner." A hoarse voice like sandpaper rang out. The mysterious man directly sat down at the table near the entrance and placed the longsword wrapped in a rag onto the table.

The rag was slightly decrepit and had lost its color and become stiff after numerous washing.

"You... What are you ordering?" Ouyang Xiaoyi shyly asked. She was frightened by the man's aura.

"I reserved a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from Owner Bu yesterday. I am specially here today to retrieve the wine," the man continued to speak using a hoarse voice.

"Retrieve the wine?!"

Everyone was surprised for a moment, then weirdly looked toward Zhao Ruge. That fellow seemed to have said that he would throw money to buy the last jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from

the person who reserved it.

Zhao Ruge was startled, then the corner of his mouth curled up. He elegantly sat down opposite to the man and confidently said, "Sell the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine to me. I'll give you three times the price."

"I am not selling," the man indifferently replied.

Zhao Ruge frowned and continued to say, "Five times the price."

"I said, I am not selling."

"Do you know who I am? Are you trying to offend me?" Zhao Ruge threatened with a cold expression. After his two consecutive offers were rejected, Zhao Ruge was furious as well.

Finally, the man seemed to lift his gaze and look at Zhao Ruge. His hoarse voice, as alarming as the sound of thunder, sounded out.

"Even if the Minister of the Left was here, he wouldn't dare to speak to me that way. Who... do you think you are?"

Chapter 41: Zhao Ruge Who Was Subdued By The Sweet 'N' Sour Ribs

"How audacious!" Zhao Ruge's pupils constricted as his palm landed on the table and he angrily shouted.

The table suddenly trembled, startling everyone present. Still, they all felt that this mysterious man was too arrogant.

Who was the Minister of the Left? As an important official within the imperial city, his status was comparable to General Xiao Meng. However, this man's tone was filled with contempt toward the Minister of the Left. It was uncertain whether he was really that confident or was deliberately arrogant.

Zhao Ruge's eyes brightly lit up as his aura rapidly increased. The stream of energy was like bugs crawling on his skin as he swiftly gathered true energy.

"You're noisy! Since you're here in Owner Bu's place, then you should be peacefully eating. If you want to fight, then get out of here," the mysterious man indifferently said. He did not care about Zhao Ruge who was gathering his aura in the slightest.

As the man finished speaking, he held out his hand with his thumb and index finger together, as if he was going to flick away a fly.

Buzz!

The three barbarians of Ouyang who were sitting at a distance immediately moved in front of Ouyang Xiaoyi. Their hairs were standing on ends as they gravely looked toward the mysterious man.

Xiao Yanyu's pupils constricted as well and she subconsciously gathered the true energy within her body.

Chi chi!!

With a flick of the man's finger, a stream of invisible energy swiftly burst out. Zhao Ruge's body froze for a moment, then the aura that surrounded him started shrivelling like a deflated balloon.

With a groan, he fell face forward to the ground...

Zhao Ruge went into a daze as his entire body shivered and his lips trembled. It was too terrifying... Within that instant, Zhao Ruge thought he was going to die!

A red dot instantly appeared in the center of his forehead, then rapidly grew to cover his entire forehead.

"If we were not in Owner Bu's store right now, you would've already become a corpse by now," the mysterious man indifferently said as he slowly retracted his arm and became silent.

The mood within the store instantly became cold and everyone held their breath.

Zhao Ruge had an unsightly expression on his face as he climbed up from the ground, then miserably returned to his seat and quietly sat down.

The three barbarians of Ouyang were pulling Ouyang Xiaoyi away to a safe distance as well. From the scariness of the mysterious man's attack, they could tell that he was at least a fifth grade Battle-King.

However, that was still a conservative estimate. After all, Zhao Ruge was a third grade Battle-Maniac that was close to becoming a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. Even an ordinary Battle-King would have some difficulty in instantly killing him. Which meant that this man might be a sixth grade Battle-Emperor!

As the awkward mood within the store seemed to stretch on forever, a rich fragrance drifted out from the kitchen.

"The improved Egg-Fried Rice is ready," Bu Fang's indifferent voice sounded out from within the kitchen. A bowl of Egg-Fried Rice that appeared to be radiating a golden brilliance was placed at the window.

Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly walked over to collect the food.

The rich fragrance filled with warmth seemed to disperse much

of the cold atmosphere within the store. The delicious smell, that was like a piece of silk gliding across their faces, made them feel as if their hearts were being teased.

"It smells good!" As Zhao Ruge sniffed the fragrance, he felt as if the swelling pain on his forehead had mostly receded.

Xiao Xiaolong cheerfully received the Egg-Fried Rice while holding a blue and white porcelain spoon in his hand and began to gobble down the food.

Zhao Ruge swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He had never tasted the Egg-Fried Rice before, but his stomach was rumbling just from smelling the fragrance.

Xiao Xiaolong was eating so messily that there was even rice grains at the corners of his mouth. When he felt a gaze filled with burning desire, he immediately grinned at Zhao Ruge and asked, "Do you want to give it a try?"

Zhao Ruge looked at him and subtly nodded.

"If you want to try it, then buy it yourself next time." Xiao Xiaolong stuck his tongue out, licked the rice grains off the corner of his mouth and teasingly said.

Zhao Ruge immediately froze and his eyes were filled with anger as he thought, "How dare he make fun of me!"

"The Golden Shumai is ready." Bu Fang's indifferent voice sounded out once more.

Subsequently, the Golden Shumai was collected by Ouyang Xiaoyi and placed in front of Xiao Yanyu. The exceptionally beautiful Golden Shumai was as delicate as a piece of artwork and so bright that it was practically radiating golden rays.

As Xiao Yanyu picked up a shumai with a pair of bamboo chopsticks, the soup seeped out and instantly released a captivating fragrance.

Before the soup dribbled off the shumai, Xiao Yanyu caught it with her mouth. Her delicate lips became even more enticing as a layer of glistening oil covered her lips.

Zhao Ruge's eyes were almost completely mystified at this point. No one could be sure whether he was looking at the delicious food or the beautiful woman, but... it was clear that the scene before him was a feast for the eyes.

After that, the time between each dish getting served became even shorter.

The Lees Fish was ready to be served as well. As the dish was too heavy for Xiaoyi, Bu Fang had to personally serve it. When he entered the dining area, he was slightly startled to see the mysterious man wearing the bamboo hat.

The mysterious man nodded at Bu Fang and he expressionlessly nodded in response as well.

As the Lees Fish appeared, the rich wine aroma almost overpowered the fragrance of all the other dishes. Even the eyes of the mysterious man slightly lit up and gave the Lees Fish a longer look.

"From the looks of it... it seems pretty good," the man thought to himself. "I didn't realize that other than having wine of the highest grade, Owner Bu's dishes were first grade as well."

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs is ready." A short while after returning to the kitchen, Bu Fang's voice sounded out from it.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was already impatiently waiting at the window. She was looking forward to Bu Fang's latest dish.

When the tangerine and fragrant Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs appeared in front of Ouyang Xiaoyi, she was completely stunned. Just from sniffing the smell, she was involuntarily gulping and almost started drooling.

It was too aromatic! Furthermore, the sweet and sour fragrance was teasing the little loli to the point of losing her self-control.

Unfortunately... The one who ordered the dish was that sissy, Zhao Ruge!

As she unwillingly served the dish to Zhao Ruge, the latter was already drooling while holding a pair of bamboo chopsticks in his hand. The fragrance of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was so aromatic that he was almost captivated to the point of being inextricable.

As he picked up a piece of rib with his chopsticks and put it in his mouth, a sweet and sour flavor instantly burst out. The rich flavor of the meat violently surged and enveloped his taste buds while assaulting his mouth. The rib was still slightly hot and he could not help but pant to cool it down.

The rich fragrance of the meat immediately enveloped the entire store.

Even Xiao Xiaolong stopped eating and Xiao Yanyu looked toward Zhao Ruge as well... It was truly too fragrant!

Zhao Ruge was so happy that he almost shed tears. It was really extremely delicious. He felt that the fifty crystals were really well spent!

He rapidly picked up another piece and shoved it into his mouth as Ouyang Xiaoyi enviously watched. The sweet and sour sauce splattered and stained the corners of his mouth. He was panting as he ate the meat.

At that moment, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen. All of the dishes were cooked and only the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was left.

He carried out two jars of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and separately placed them in front of Xiao Xiaolong and the three barbarians of Ouyang. Then he returned to the kitchen, took out another jar and placed it on the table of the mysterious man.

"Here's your Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, please enjoy your drink," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

"Hah... Owner... Is your... hah... wine really better than... the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?" Zhao Ruge asked doubtfully while panting. He was still chewing a piece of rib that was emitting heat in his mouth.

"I already said... That whatever Bejewelled Nectar Wine is nothing. You just have to taste my wine and you'll know," Bu Fang simply said.

The mysterious man's hoarse voice sounded out as well, "How is Bejewelled Nectar Wine even comparable to Owner Bu's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine? The number one wine in Light Wind Empire is definitely Owner Bu's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine."

After the man finished speaking, he removed the cloth cover of the wine jar. Within that instant, a mellow and rich wine aroma drifted into the air and engulfed the store.

The aroma of the wine was extraordinarily mellow and concentrated. It completely dispersed the aroma of the Lees Fish and captivated everyone in the area.

A captivating redness appeared on both the fair faces of Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Yanyu.

Just from comparing the aroma, the Bejewelled Nectar Wine had already lost.

As for the taste... Xiao Xiaolong and the three barbarians of Ouyang were already eager to savor it.

Chapter 42: Why Is It You?!

Zhao Ruge had never smelled such a delicious wine aroma before. In front of this wine aroma, he seemed to have completely forgotten about the taste of the Bejewelled Nectar Wine which he praised as the best.

Xiao Xiaolong eagerly tore off the cloth cover of the wine jar and poured the wine into a cup as the pristine liquid created a swaying reflection. The wine aroma penetrated deep into his soul and he was involuntarily intoxicated as he deeply inhaled.

Picking up the wine cup, Xiao Xiaolong contentedly lifted it to his nose. As he sniffed the wine, his face was filled with an enjoyable expression. To a wine lover, a cup of fine wine was not inferior to the most beautiful woman in the world. They would let go of all of their vigilance and devote themselves to enjoying the taste of the wine.

As the liquid entered his mouth, it felt like ice crystals brushing against his tongue as it flowed down his throat into his stomach. The coolness that it emitted made all the hairs on Xiao Xiaolong's body stand on ends and goosebumps appeared all over.

In the split second when the wine entered his stomach, it was like there was a fire burning within his body. The warm feeling instantly gushed to the pit of his stomach, immersing Xiao Xiaolong in the coalesce of ice and fire.

"Oh~" Xiao Xiaolong's face was flushing red and had

uncontrollably moaned just from a single sip.

"What a fine wine! It truly is a fine wine!" Xiao Xiaolong repeatedly praised. He poured the rest of the wine in the cup into his mouth and his eyes narrowed as if he had entered into a euphoric state.

When the three barbarians of Ouyang saw his behavior, they were unable to endure any further. The three of them filled their own wine cups and poured the wine into their mouths as well.

Within an instant, their eyes widened in surprise as all of the pores on their bodies relaxedly spread open and they felt a sense of happiness they never experienced before.

The three of them did not say anything and concentrated solely on drinking the wine. They were completely immersed in the rich mellowness of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

The mysterious man wearing the bamboo hat seemed to be faintly smiling as he watched their reactions. He took off his bamboo hat and revealed a handsome face that seemed to have been sculpted from marble.

Filling his cup as well, he was enjoying the wine by himself with an extremely satisfied expression on his face.

"Is the wine... really that good?" Zhao Ruge was skeptical. Even though his confidence was wavering under the impact of the rich

aroma of the wine, he was still hoping that it was all just a facade when he recalled the outcome of losing the wager.

"They're definitely pretending..." Zhao Ruge was starting to lose confidence.

If he had not tasted any of Bu Fang's dishes before, he might still have some confidence. However, after tasting the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, he already completely knew that Bu Fang's culinary skills were very strong.

"Xiaolong, fill a cup for young master Zhao and fill a cup for me as well," Xiao Yanyu gently said.

Xiao Xiaolong was slightly startled as he sobered up from his captivated state, but he was slightly reluctant to obey his sister. There was barely enough wine for himself from the start and he still had to share with that sissy, Zhao Ruge... It was a huge loss for him!

The three barbarians of Ouyang were fast drinkers and had already finished the entire jar in a short while. Ouyang Di was even shaking the jar in his hands to try getting one last drop of wine.

Without even a single drop left, the three of them helplessly looked toward Xiao Xiaolong's wine jar.

Xiao Xiaolong glared at the three of them and quickly hugged the wine jar in his arms. He first poured a cup for his sister, then

poured another for Zhao Ruge and said, "Sissy Zhao, after drinking this cup, you should just obediently admit your loss and hand over the Spirit Gathering Pill to my sister. Since you've agreed to the wager, you should be willing to pay up!"

"I, I haven't lost yet..." Zhao Ruge's voice was getting weaker. He was in a daze as he looked at the pristine cup of wine. Then he lifted up the cup and sipped from it.

Xiao Yanyu lifted up the cup as well and lightly sipped from it while covering the view with her other hand.

As the small mouthful of wine entered her stomach, Xiao Yanyu's skin that was fairer than snow instantly became blushing red and a slight redness even appeared on her fair cheeks; her appearance was extremely adorable.

Zhao Ruge already had nothing to say. After tasting the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and drinking the Bejewelled Nectar Wine again, the latter was as tasteless as plain water. There was too much difference between the two.

The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was the true number one wine within the Light Wind Empire.

After finishing the wine in his cup, Zhao Ruge had a painful expression on his face. He already understood that he lost the wager.

He had no choice but to hand over the fifth grade Spirit Gathering Pill.

He was originally planning to use this Spirit Gathering Pill to advance to fourth grade Battle-Spirit. However, he did not expect that he would actually lose it. Without the Spirit Gathering Pill, his breakthrough was far away once more.

Receiving the jade bottle that Zhao Ruge handed to her, Xiao Yanyu was extremely beautiful as she faintly smiled. "There's no need for young master Zhao to be upset. Even though you've lost a Spirit Gathering Pill, you were able to eat Owner Bu's Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. It was not a loss for you."

It was not a loss? How could that be possible? The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs could only fulfill his tongue's desires, but the Spirit Gathering Pill was able to help him advance his cultivation level. Comparing the two, it was a huge loss for him! Unless... Owner Bu's Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs could help him achieve a breakthrough as well. However... how could that be possible?

Zhao Ruge was so heartbroken that he had difficulty breathing and had an extremely unsightly expression on his face.

Xiao Yanyu only smiled at that. How could a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs cost fifty crystals just because the taste was good? If the improved Egg-Fried Rice could increase true energy within the body, then this Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs would evidently be more effective. Zhao Ruge would soon experience that fact.

When that moment came, he would understand Owner Bu's true abilities.

On the other side, Xiao Xiaolong had also finished his Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. He was slightly intoxicated and a slight redness had appeared on his face that was as tender as a woman's.

The three barbarians of Ouyang were still fine. Even though the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was really mellow, their cultivation levels were high and they were experienced drinkers. Their reactions were not as intense compared to Xiao Xiaolong's.

Bada!

The crisp sound of a cup falling onto the table was not loud, but slightly startled everyone.

They all looked toward the source of the noise, Xiao Yanyu.

Xiao Yanyu's expression, which was still gentle a moment ago, had suddenly turned slightly ferocious and grim. Her gaze was transfixed by the figure at a distance.

Xiao Xiaolong was not that intoxicated in the first place. When he noticed his sister's expression, his tipsiness mostly dispersed. He followed her gaze toward the figure sitting at the table near the entrance.

That charming and elegant face that seemed to have been

sculpted from marble...

"Why is it you!" Xiao Xiaolong's eyes widened as he practically roared out.

Bu Fang, who was resting nearby, was immediately startled as he baffledly looked at Xiao Xiaolong. He did not seem to understand why the sissy suddenly became so angry.

"Why can't it be me?" The hoarse voice that was like sandpaper resounded around the store, containing a trace of coldness.

Zhao Ruge and the rest saw that handsome face as well and went into a daze. Then their expressions all changed into one filled with incredulity.

"You still dare to show up within the capital... Aren't you afraid that father would find out about your location?"

"My precious brother," Xiao Yanyu coldly said. Her voice that was like the song of birds contained a trace of killing intent.

Xiao Xiaolong was already at his limit as he stood up and true energy surged out of his body.

"Heart-rending Sword Monarch Xiao Yue! He actually dared to appear within the imperial city... Is he seeking death?!" Zhao Ruge and the rest were filled with astonishment.

Xiao Yue, the eldest son of Xiao Meng, was astonishingly talented. At the age of ten, he had already become first grade and reached second grade by the time he was eleven years old. He was able to manifest true energy when he was thirteen and became Battle-Spirit at the age of fifteen. He became the youngest fifth grade Battle-King in the history of the Light Wind Empire at the age of eighteen. His future was looking bright.

However, tragedy struck three years ago when Xiao Yue became enthralled with the way of the sword and joined the Void Sword Pavilion. In order to become the master of a sword spirit of Void Sword Pavilion, he even used the blood from his mother's heart as an offering. With a single sword strike to her heart, he sent his mother into a comatose state from which she had yet to awaken.

Xiao Yue was then beaten by the furious Xiao Meng to the point where he was vomiting blood and the true energy within his body had dissipated. In the end, he was rescued by the combined efforts of the three elders of Void Sword Pavilion. From then on, Xiao Yue deserted the Xiao family and became an enemy that they swore to kill.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong could never forget the day when their mother had collapsed in front of them. Her blood splatter had dyed their eyes red and turned into an unforgettable hatred for them; a hatred toward Xiao Yue.

From that moment onward, Xiao Yue was not their beloved and esteemed elder brother any longer.

Chapter 43: Abrupt Mission

Gur gur gur.

Within the silent store, only the sound of liquor being poured into a cup could be heard. Then the distinct sound of someone drinking down the cup of wine in one go and the liquor being swallowed.

Xiao Yue lightly breathed out as he finally finished the jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine by himself. He acknowledged the fact that the wine was of the highest quality and was far more delicious than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine.

"Owner Bu, I am leaving. I will reserve a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine for tomorrow as well," Xiao Yue said to Bu Fang as he placed fifteen crystals onto the table. Then with a gentle smile, he put on his bamboo hat and slinged the sword wrapped in a rag behind his back.

"Hmm, alright," Bu Fang nodded.

"Xiao Yue! Are you just going to leave like this?!" Xiao Yanyu's voice rang out. It was no longer like the song of birds, but a slight mixture of anger and killing intent.

Xiao Yue's figure, who had already reached the entrance, paused for a moment and turned around. His handsome face was concealed by the black veil of the bamboo hat and could not be seen clearly.

"What about it? Do you think you can make me stay?" There was a hint of mockery in Xiao Yue's hoarse voice. That disdainful tone caused Xiao Yanyu's pupils to slightly constrict as anger covered her beautiful face.

Xiao Xiaolong's temper was even worse than Xiao Yanyu's and he was unable to endure it any further. He gathered his true energy and charged toward Xiao Yue.

"Ah! You bastard!" Xiao Xiaolong howled with bloodshot eyes as he swung his fist with a powerful force.

Bang!

Xiao Yue calmly lifted his hand and caught Xiao Xiaolong's fist with his palm. However, despite Xiao Xiaolong putting in so much force, Xiao Yue's hand did not budge in the slightest.

"Third grade Battle-Maniac? Your talent is still quite inferior compared to your elder sister." Xiao Yue lightly smiled as a powerful force burst out from his palm. The wave of energy scattered in all directions and sent Xiao Xiaolong's body flying.

Xiao Yanyu caught Xiao Xiaolong's body in mid-air and her expression had already turned frosty.

Zhao Ruge was staring at Xiao Yue while his eyes were flashing. On the other hand, the three barbarians of Ouyang were standing

in a distance and shaking their heads while sighing... They could not and dare not interfere in the Xiao family's affairs.

After placing Xiao Xiaolong down, Xiao Yanyu's eyes seemed to become empty as her hair, propelled by a force, began to hover in the air.

Ever since that incident three years ago, she had been diligently cultivating day after day for this moment. She did it so that she could personally execute the brute that sent their mother into a coma.

A pale green dot appeared on her flawless forehead and began to spread as pale green lines gradually covered her beautiful face.

"Wood Mist Technique? You actually learned this type of secret technique that depletes your life force... It seems that you really hate me."

Xiao Yue's expression underneath the bamboo hat could not be seen as his hoarse voice resounded around the store.

Zhao Ruge's pupils constricted as he thought, "Wood Mist Technique, that's a terrifying technique that converts life force into a tremendous power! Its users can even challenge higher level opponents! Xiao Yanyu actually learned such a technique, what a mad woman!"

"Xiao Yue, it's time for you to die!" The current Xiao Yanyu was

cold and ruthless, and each of her words were as cold as ice.

However, just when she was about to make a move, a slender hand suddenly landed on her shoulder and an indifferent voice rang out from behind her.

"Excuse me, but creating a disturbance is prohibited within the store. If you want to fight, please do it outside. Thank you."

Everyone was startled as they looked at Bu Fang—whose hand was still on Xiao Yanyu's shoulder—with odd expressions on their faces. This fellow... Was he not afraid of death?

With such a grim mood that anyone could detect the murderous intent, it was obvious that a fierce battle was about to occur. What was a third grade Battle-Maniac doing over there?

Xiao Yanyu's dark green pupils slightly moved and her cold gaze focused on Bu Fang's expressionless face.

"Are you going to get in my way?" Her voice was as cold as ice mountains and cold winds and would cause any listeners to shiver. Even Bu Fang slightly frowned when he heard her. He stared at the dark green dot on Xiao Yanyu's forehead and could feel a vigorous life force bubbling within.

Hum!

A powerful force knocked away Bu Fang's arm as Xiao Yanyu

ignored him and took a step forward. Her toes lightly tapped the ground and her figure swiftly glided toward Xiao Yue.

Bu Fang took a step backward and lightly called out, "Whitey."

As Whitey appeared next to him with its big belly, Bu Fang patted Whitey's belly and said, "Stop them."

Xiao Bai's mechanical eyes flashed, then it disappeared from where it stood and instantly reappeared next to Xiao Yanyu.

"Get out of my way!" Xiao Yanyu's face suddenly turned ferocious as she flung out a burst of true energy from her hand toward Whitey who was blocking her way. She had already set her mind on killing Xiao Yue that day, so there was no one who could stop her!

Whitey's mechanical eyes slightly flashed red and it lifted up its hand.

Bang bang!

Ignoring the burst of true energy, Whitey's hand landed on Xiao Yanyu's body, jarring her entire body. Xiao Yanyu was flung backward as she miserably landed next to Xiao Xiaolong. The dark green dot on her forehead made a crisp sound as it immediately shattered into many pieces like glass.

Her secret technique was actually dispelled by a single palm

strike from Whitey!

Xiao Yue narrowed his eyes as he gravely looked toward Whitey. He thought, "This puppet is slightly interesting. To be able to dispel Xiao Yanyu's technique with a single palm strike, it should be quite strong."

"Owner Bu, I am leaving. Don't forget to keep a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine for me," Xiao Yue lightly smiled as he said toward Bu Fang. Then he turned around and disappeared within the chilly alleyway.

"Troublemaker, you will be stripped as an example to others." As Xiao Yue disappeared, Whitey's mechanical voice rang out and startled everyone.

"Owner Bu, my sister didn't cause trouble! She really didn't... Wasn't she stopped before she could reach the other party?" Xiao Xiaolong's expression slightly changed as he quickly hugged Xiao Yanyu's body and anxiously said to Bu Fang.

What a joke! How could Xiao Xiaolong allow others to strip his sister and throw her out? It would not just simply end with a clamor, an earthquake might even occur within the imperial city.

Bu Fang slightly hesitated as he felt that Xiao Xiaolong's words seemed to hold water.

"The other party's secret technique being dispelled has led to a

severe loss of life force and resulted in a life endangering situation. Considering that Whitey injured Xiao Yanyu due to the host's incitement, an abrupt mission shall be issued.

"Abrupt Mission: The host has to learn 'Elixir Cuisine', the cooking method of Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, within three days and rescue the life of a dying beauty."

(Since ancient times, the fate of beautiful women end in misery. Young man, use your nimble hands to rescue her.)

Mission Reward: Oyster Bun that may be ordered to take out.

The system's solemn voice suddenly rang out in Bu Fang's mind, causing him to space out.

Abrupt mission? Rescue the beauty?

"The rule was set by the system!" Bu Fang was slightly dumbfounded as the corner of his mouth twitched.

"After analysis, it is concluded that Xiao Yanyu's actions was not severe enough to be considered as causing trouble," the system seriously replied.

Bu Fang felt as if his chest was pierced by an invisible arrow...

"Fine, this style of conducting business is indeed how the system behaves."

"Owner Bu! My sister... She... What's wrong with her!" Xiao Xiaolong's horrified voice pulled Bu Fang back into reality.

Bu Fang walked toward Xiao Yanyu. Her face was pale and her rosy lips had lost its luster. It was as if her life energy was rapidly depleting.

The system was indeed not lying to him. She was in a life endangering situation after receiving the blow from Whitey.

"It's alright. She's only suffering from an ordinary loss of life force. There's always a few days in a month when people experience this. Bring her back here in three days and I'll prepare a medicinal cuisine for her. She'll recover once she eats it," Bu Fang simply said as he expressionlessly concealed his guilty conscience.

Xiao Xiaolong and the rest were stunned. They thought, "Is... it really alright? There isn't even any color on her face!"

"Trust me, it's alright. However, remember to bring her back in three days," Bu Fang earnestly exhorted.

"Young master Xiao, you should bring young lady Yanyu back to the manor and let General Xiao look at her first. With the general's abilities, he should be able to treat her," the three barbarians of

Ouyang reminded Xiao Xiaolong.

Xiao Xiaolong was immediately woken up by the reminder and hastily exited the store with Xiao Yanyu in his arms.

Zhao Ruge and the rest left as well. The incident that day had quite a huge impact on them.

The fact that the Heart-rending Sword Monarch had appeared within the imperial city was an important information. After all, such a dangerous character had appeared in a sensitive period.

"Smelly boss, is elder sister Yanyu really alright?" Ouyang Xiaoyi doubtfully looked up at Bu Fang and asked.

"She's alright. Be a good girl and go back first," Bu Fang said as he stroked Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

Once everyone had left, Bu Fang closed up the store and ended the business for the day.

"System, what will happen if I don't manage to learn how to cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup within three days?" Bu Fang quietly asked the system.

The system solemnly replied, "There's a ninety-nine percent chance that the host would be torn into pieces by the furious seventh grade Battle-Saint Xiao Meng."

"Uh, system, for the sake of rescuing a beauty still experiencing the prime of her life, I will work hard! Hurry up and tell me how to cook the medicinal cuisine! Hurry!" Bu Fang announced in a righteous tone.

Chapter 44: Heavenly Sage Herb And Blood Phoenix Chicken

As the night fell, the two crescent moons towering above called out to each other and radiated ice-cold moonlight like a mysterious veil across the world.

Imperial city, main hall of the Xiao manor.

"Father, is elder sister... alright?" Xiao Xiaolong was filled with anxiety and his face was full of dread. He was afraid that his father would say the words he feared the most.

Xiao Yanyu's beautiful face was extremely pale and her lively eyes had become spiritless. Underneath her pasty skin, there was a black vein roaming about as her life force continued to deplete.

The burly Xiao Meng was gloomily standing next to Xiao Yanyu. As he slowly withdrew the true energy used to examine her, his dashing eyebrows were knitted together and were almost touching. A trace of killing intent, deeply hidden in his eyes, was starting to stir.

"Who did this?! How did Yanyu become like this?" Xiao Meng coldly asked, suppressing his anger as he spoke.

"We... went to Fang Fang's Little Store and met... met elder brother." Xiao Xiaolong was slightly trembling and had some difficulty breathing due to Xiao Meng's intimidation. A seventh

grade Battle-Saint's fury was not something that an ordinary person could endure.

Xiao Meng turned his head and attentively looked toward him. "Who did you say you met? Xiao Yue?"

"Yes..."

"So, he's the one who injured Yanyu?" Xiao Meng gritted his teeth and coldly asked. His fists were tightly clenched together as he suppressed his boundless fury.

Xiao Xiaolong was startled and he quickly denied it. Subsequently, he conveyed everything that happened within the store to Xiao Meng.

"You're saying that Yanyu was injured by the store's puppet?" There was no expression on Xiao Meng's face, but Xiao Xiaolong was even more frightened now. He knew that the type of anger that was not shown was the most terrifying.

"The owner said... he can save elder sister three days from now," Xiao Xiaolong said.

"And you actually believed him? You're letting someone of unknown background dictate your elder sister's life?" Xiao Meng coldly smiled as he glanced at Xiao Xiaolong, causing him to feel as if he was plunged into icy waters.

"Go back first. I've already invited the imperial physicians over. Hopefully, they'll be able to save your elder sister." Xiao Meng tiredly beckoned the dejected Xiao Xiaolong to leave.

After Xiaolong left, Xiao Meng ordered the servants to bring Xiao Yanyu back to her room and he disappeared from the spot after taking a step.

"I'd like to see what kind of person would dare to injure my daughter," Xiao Meng's gloomy voice resounded.

.....

Under the night sky, Fang Fang's Little Store seemed a little tranquil. The alleyway was deep and quiet, and some lamplight was seeping out from the gaps of the tightly shut front door.

The big black dog was lazily lying at the entrance with its eyes closed, maintaining its immutable sleeping position as if sleep was the dog's greatest hobby.

"Hmm?" The eyes of the big black dog that were shut tight suddenly quivered, then slightly opened and puzzledly looked toward an empty space.

It saw a figure striding in the air and approaching Fang Fang's Little Store with a solemn expression. The aura coming from the figure was stifling and terrifying.

Xiao Meng was standing proudly in the air with his hands behind his back as he looked down upon the store. His eyes suddenly focused as he locked his gaze on the body of the big black dog lying at the entrance.

"A big black dog?" Xiao Meng slightly muttered. His expression gradually changed from being unconcerned to a grave look as he intently stared at the dog.

It was an unfathomable dog! Xiao Meng was bewildered. He was unable to see through the dog. Even though the other party was only lazily lying there, Xiao Meng felt that if he tried to destroy the store, the dog would definitely give him a devastating retaliation.

"A mysterious store and a mysterious dog... It really isn't simple." Xiao Meng was unnerved. He was suddenly slightly convinced by what Xiao Xiaolong had said. Perhaps the owner would really be able to save his daughter three days later.

"If you can't save my daughter in three days, then, even if I have to risk my old life, I will make sure this store is buried with my daughter," Xiao Meng coldly snorted to himself. Then his figure instantly flew across the sky and disappeared.

The big black dog indifferently glanced at the direction where Xiao Meng disappeared. It opened its mouth and yawned. Then it snorted and continued with its sleep.

Bu Fang, who was within the store, did not realize what just happened outside the store at all. At the moment, he was fully

focused on learning the Elixir Cuisine, the cooking method of the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

"Elixir Cuisine: Elixirs with medicinal value are blended together with ingredients, which are rich in spirit energy, that also fulfill the requirements of being used in medicines. Special cooking techniques are used to process the elixir and ingredients to produce a medicinal cuisine that possesses color, smell, taste and healing capabilities," the system explained.

"Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup: It is a soup cooked using the fifth grade spirit herb Heavenly Sage Herb from the Wildlands, the fifth grade spirit beast Blood Phoenix Chicken and numerous spirit herbs based on a strict proportion. This soup possesses life force recovery as well as blood and energy replenishment capabilities. The medicinal value is extremely high but there is a strict requirement regarding the proportion allocation of the spirit herbs."

Bu Fang finished reading the cooking method of the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. He was not familiar with medicinal cuisines as he did not possess much knowledge about them. Even though he understood the rationale behind the strict proportion, putting it into practice was not so simple.

"I should just immediately start practicing." Bu Fang frowned and decided to attempt the cooking method of the medicinal cuisine.

"The system will prepare three servings of ingredients for the host. The host will only have three tries to complete the dish. " The system's solemn voice rang out once more, startling Bu Fang. With

only three servings of ingredients, he could only fail twice.

He earnestly studied the recipe of the Elixir Cuisine once more. As he took a deep breath, his eyes were brimming with confidence.

Without Bu Fang knowing, a gigantic cabinet had appeared within the kitchen. It was placed separately on one side and the three servings of ingredients mentioned by the system were inside.

As Bu Fang opened the door of the cabinet, a dense amount of spirit energy immediately gushed out, causing all of the pores on his body to slightly open.

"Gugu..."

At the bottom layer of the cabinet, three chicken cages were installed. Each of the cages had a beautiful chicken that had feathers as red as blood.

Bu Fang expressionlessly thought, "So, the chickens are alive... I thought the system had already processed them."

"The system has already sealed off the cultivation level of the Blood Phoenix Chicken. The host only needs to follow the normal procedure of handling a chicken. Reminder: the body of the chicken must be completely preserved. The comb of the Blood Phoenix Chicken must not be damaged."

Bu Fang skillfully grabbed one of the Blood Phoenix Chicken

from the chicken cages while it desperately flapped its wings and loudly clucked.

A Blood Phoenix Chicken with its cultivation level sealed was no different from a free-range chicken on Earth. Of course, the appearance was an exception.

The Blood Phoenix Chicken was extremely good-looking. It had a streamlined body and its comb was both large and red, as if it was filled with blood. Its feathers were vermillion red and remarkably eye-catching, while its beak was dark red. From afar, it looked like a burning flame.

The fifth grade spirit beast Blood Phoenix Chicken was actually not that strong when it came to fighting. At the very least, it was quite weak compared to other fifth grade spirit beasts. However, its movement speed was very fast, which was why it was rated fifth grade. Of course, within Fang Fang's Little Store the Blood Phoenix Chicken was no different from any ordinary chicken. It could not even struggle while a third grade Battle-Maniac with no combat ability like Bu Fang easily slaughtered it.

Bu Fang skillfully processed the Blood Phoenix Chicken and had almost perfectly handled it. Then he proceeded to take out all sorts of valuable herbs from the cabinet.

These spirit herbs were full of spirit energy and the amount leaking out had completely enveloped the kitchen, making it seem like a paradise. The spirit energy seeping out of the Heavenly Sage Herb was especially dense and was almost forming clouds.

Following the instructions in the recipe, Bu Fang first created a hole on the Sage Herb and poured the aromatic juice into a bowl. The bowl was half filled when he was done. Then, he used an exquisite knife technique to slice the Sage Herb.

Bu Fang stuffed spirit herbs into the stomach of the Blood Phoenix Chicken while following the proportions in the recipe. Then he took out a clay pot and placed the entire Blood Phoenix Chicken into it. He filled the clay pot with water from a spirit spring and started to simmer it.

After half an hour, he opened the lid and poured in the Sage Herb juice and let it continue to simmer.

This time, he let the pot continue to simmer for another two hours. The fragrance of the chicken meat was accompanied by the aromatic smell of the Sage Herb as it slowly seeped out from the clay pot. It was like mist as it floated within the kitchen without dissipating.

"Did I succeed?" Bu Fang was slightly surprised.

However, in the next moment, the system's solemn voice rang out in his mind.

"The host's first attempt has failed."

Chapter 45: Xiao Meng Has Come To The Store

"The host's first attempt has failed."

The system's voice rang out in Bu Fang's mind, startling him. How could he have failed? The fragrance was so strong...

As Bu Fang lifted up the clay pot from the stove and uncovered the lid, a thick amount of steam mixed with the fragrance of chicken gushed out. The sweet scent of Sage Herb was mixed within the fragrance as well. Bu Fang was slightly intoxicated as he greedily inhaled.

Within the clay pot, the blood red chicken meat was slightly quivering like jelly and the chicken soup was still bubbling. Every time a bubble burst, a rich fragrance would flow out. The purple juice of the Sage Herb had turned into a lime color after simmering for a while. There was a layer of yellow foam floating above the soup; it was the crystallization of the spirit herbs' essence.

"Hmm?" Bu Fang was frowning as he stared at the color of the chicken soup. After a long while, he gave a long sigh and a touch of regret appeared on his face.

There was no mistake. Bu Fang had indeed failed. If he had successfully completed the Sage Herb Blood Phoenix Soup, the soup would not be lime in color. In order for the chicken soup to achieve a perfect efficacy, the juice of the Sage Herb had to completely permeate into the meat, and then the color of the soup

would be amber.

"System suggestion: During the process of cooking the Elixir Cuisine, the host can expedite the process of the permeation of the Sage Herb juice into the meat of the chicken by using true energy. This will preserve the efficacy of the spirit herbs and improve the texture of the meat," the system said.

"Use true energy to expedite the process?" Bu Fang's eyes slightly lit up. There were basically no mistakes in his cooking steps, but he still failed in the end. He reviewed what he did and pondered for a while, but still did not figure out where he was wrong and only realized his mistake after the system's reminder.

He was cooking an Elixir Cuisine and the ingredients and spirit herbs used were extremely abundant. In order to perfectly neutralize the spirit energy of the ingredients and spirit herbs, he could not just rely on kitchen tools to cook the dish. He also needed to use true energy as a medium to complete this Elixir Cuisine.

The truth was that it was not just the Elixir Cuisine. In the future, Bu Fang would also need to use true energy as a medium when cooking other dishes. It was also one of the reason why the system would help Bu Fang to convert crystals into true energy.

Many high grade ingredients contained a tremendous amount of spirit energy and it was not possible to rely on kitchen tools to handle them. In the event he made a mistake, it would easily result in an explosion or various other problems. Bu Fang would need to consider these issues once he started to use ingredients that exceeded fifth grade.

"Huff~" Bu Fang deeply inhaled, then beckoned for Whitey and placed the failed product of the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup into Whitey's stomach to be recycled.

He stretched his body and yawned. It was time for him to sleep. As a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, Bu Fang must regulate work and rest. When it was time to sleep, he would definitely not be doing other things.

Even though Bu Fang failed his first attempt at cooking the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, he was still enigmatically calm and collected as usual.

After patting Whitey's wide belly, Bu Fang went back to his room and peacefully slept.

The next morning, he woke up and after washing up, he started that day's business.

He practiced the Meteor Knife Technique as usual and completed that day's mission. Then he used the radishes from the practice to cook a Radish Egg-Fried Rice.

After Bu Fang tasted it and was satisfied with the taste, he expressionlessly left it for Blacky who was sleeping at the entrance.

The store was starting to get popular as well. At the very least when he opened up for business every morning, he would see a

loyal army of obese men outside. Fatty Jin and his buddies came everyday regardless of rain or shine.

"Owner Bu, I'll have a serving of Golden Shumai! Oh my, the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs actually costs fifty crystals! Since it's expensive enough, I'll have a serving as well!" Fatty Jin laughed and said as the fat on his face jiggled.

The other obese men also ordered their dishes, and so, Bu Fang started his busy work. Ouyang Xiaoyi quickly arrived as well. After working for a few days, she was slightly more experienced and was more proficient at her job.

During business hours, Bu Fang was working as usual. He did not have the time to think about the cooking method of the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup and seemed to be very calm.

Xushi unhurriedly walked into the store. Ever since the crown prince ordered him to investigate the place, he was completely taken captive by the delicious food and came almost everyday.

"Girl, I'll have a serving of Boiled Fish!" Xushi slightly nodded toward Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Boiled Fish was Xushi's favorite dish. He liked it more than Lees Fish and Fish Head Tofu Soup. The feeling of pleasure as each slice of smooth and tender fish entered his mouth was simply intoxicating for him.

After receiving the order, Bu Fang nodded and walked toward the fish tank. His hands swiftly entered the water and grabbed a black fish out of the tank. The fish was a type of freshwater fish and was a grade lower than the Thunder Silver Carp. However, the texture of its flesh was more tender than the one from the Thunder Silver Carp.

When Bu Fang placed the struggling fish on the cutting board, the fish even spat out a stream of water at him, creating a patch of wetness on his clothes.

Bu Fang was expressionless as he smacked the fish's head with the kitchen knife. Then he skillfully descaled and gutted the fish. Finally, the fish was sliced into pieces. His knife skill was even more superb after a few days of training and his speed when slicing the fish was extremely fast.

Once the fish was sliced, the other steps were much easier. After the spirit vegetables were handled, they were placed into a single pot to boil. When a fragrance drifted out, he threw in the slices of fish that were just slightly heated up with ginger water to remove the fishy smell. After boiling for a while, the dish was plated.

The fragrant and glossy Boiled Fish was placed in front of Xushi, causing his eyes to suddenly lit up and reveal an eager expression on his face.

Perhaps even the crown prince was unaware that his number one advisor was actually a foodie.

Dada.

A middle-aged man, with a handsome face that seemed to have been sculpted from marble, stepped into the store with his hands behind his back. His gaze was steady and cold, while his aura was tense.

The rich fragrance that filled the interior of the store caused a slight amazement to appear on the middle-aged man's face.

When the middle-aged man saw Ouyang Xiaoyi, he was startled once more and puzzledly asked, "Hmm? Xiaoyi? What are you doing here?"

As his voice rang out within the store, Xushi who was just about to put a slice of Boiled Fish into his mouth suddenly trembled and the slice of fish fell into the bowl once more. The result was some of the sauce from the bowl splattered onto his beautiful beard.

"Great... Great General Xiao Meng?" When Xushi turned his head saw who it was, he immediately stood up from his seat and greeted while performing a fist and palm salute. At the same time, he thought, "My heavens... The Great General Xiao Meng actually appeared in this little restaurant as well? This is an important information. I must inform the crown prince."

Xiao Meng nodded. He naturally recognized the crown prince's number one advisor. He appreciated the ability of Xushi to plan strategies and schemes as well and recognized him as a talent.

"Unc... Uncle Xiao, why are you here as well?" Ouyang was still afraid of Xiao Meng. After all, the number one expert within the imperial city was very prestigious.

"Since I am at a restaurant, I am naturally here to eat," Xiao Meng simply replied and turned to look at the menu. The astronomical values on the menu did not surprise him and his expression did not change in the slightest.

As expected of a seventh grade Battle-Saint, his temperament was steady.

Xushi secretly nodded and gave a thumbs up to Xiao Meng in his mind.

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, improved Egg-Fried Rice, Lees Fish, Golden Shumai... as well as a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine," Xiao Meng calmly read out the name of the dishes, while standing with his hands behind his back.

After memorising the order, Ouyang Xiaoyi went toward the kitchen and relayed the dishes to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was slightly surprised as he thought, "It looks like a big spender came, these many dishes would cost a lot of crystals..." After expressionlessly nodding, Bu Fang began to cook.

After Xushi quickly finished the Boiled Fish, he bid farewell to Xiao Meng and swiftly left. He was in a hurry to inform the crown

prince about the news.

Since the Great General Xiao was visiting the restaurant, it was a good chance for the crown prince to win him over.

Not long after Xushi left, Ouyang Xiaoyi timidly served each of the dishes that Xiao Meng had ordered.

Every single dish exuded a rich fragrance. Even someone as calm as Xiao Meng could not help but be surprised... As he discovered that the taste of the dishes were far more delicious than he had expected.

They were far better than the dishes of the number one restaurant in the imperial city, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

The last order, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, was personally served by Bu Fang. As he walked out of the kitchen, he was quickly noticed by Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng put down his chopsticks, looked at Bu Fang with a fake smile and said, "You're the owner? The Owner Bu who injured my daughter and claimed to be able to save her as well?"

Chapter 46: Destroy My Store? You Do Not Have That Capability

"You're the owner who injured my daughter and claimed to be able to save her as well?" Xiao Meng asked with a fake smile on his face. There was a trace of coldness in his tone. He really wanted to see what kind of miracles the owner of such a small store could conjure.

With Xiao Yanyu's injuries, even the imperial physicians could only barely keep her alive. How could the perpetrator dare to conceitedly claim that he could save her?

Bu Fang was holding a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine when he came out. When he heard Xiao Meng's question, he immediately went into a daze.

"Is this Xiao Yanyu's father?" Bu Fang thought as he glanced at the middle-aged man in front of him. Honestly speaking, the Xiao family's genes were indeed excellent. Every single member was good-looking.

"Oh, that's right. I am that shop owner who is too benevolent," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

He walked to Xiao Meng's table, then placed the jar of wine down and said, "Here's your Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, please enjoy your drink."

Xiao Meng indifferently looked at Bu Fang and placed one hand on the cloth cover of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine as he coldly said, "You injured my daughter. Don't you have anything to say about that?"

"What's there to say? Even though my store is small and the location is remote, there are still rules to be followed. Since she decided to make a move within my store, she should have been prepared to be injured," Bu Fang glanced at Xiao Meng and expressionlessly replied.

Bu Fang's neither humble nor arrogant reply caused Xiao Meng to slightly pause, then the smile on his face became even wider. "It's been a long time since anyone has spoken to me like this... Since you know that I am Yanyu's father, you should know my identity."

"With my cultivation level, demolishing this store is an easy matter. Aren't you afraid that I would kill you? Or destroy your store?"

As Xiao Meng finished speaking, an intimidating aura gushed out from his body. The aura felt like it was released by the world itself, and the entire area became extremely heavy.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's adorable face turned pale as a trace of horror appeared in her large eyes. She quickly retreated and hid in a distance. It was terrifying when Xiao Meng was angry.

"Oh, you want to destroy my store?" Facing Xiao Meng's powerful

aura, Bu Fang only calmly replied with an "oh", and then he seriously said, "You do not have that capability."

Even though the aura was heavy as a mountain and grandiose as a dragon, Bu Fang was completely unaffected within the store. As long as the system was around, all sorts of aura were transient.

Bu Fang's reply was beyond the expectations of others.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was stunned for a moment and then looked at the smelly boss with a face filled with admiration. Even though she thought he was reckless, she felt that he was actually really dashing when he said those words.

"I do not have that capability?" Xiao Meng stood up and was so exasperated that he started laughing. As a seventh grade Battle-Saint, how could he not be capable of destroying a little store?

Within an instant, Bu Fang only felt his vision blurring as Xiao Meng appeared in front of him. That handsome face was only an inch away from Bu Fang and the coldness coming from Xiao Meng's body was causing the pores on Bu Fang's body to shrink.

"You're quite arrogant for a mere third grade Battle-Maniac. Let me see whether you have the qualification to be arrogant," Xiao Meng simply said as he lifted his hand and tried to grab Bu Fang.

Bu Fang expressionlessly stared at Xiao Meng as the mood became tense within that instant.

Bang!

Bu Fang had taken two steps backward. Xiao Meng's palm did not make contact with Bu Fang, but instead was blocked by Whitey who appeared between them.

Whitey's mechanical arm was raised and had stopped Xiao Meng's palm. There was green smoke coming from their palms as they collided.

"Troublemaker, you will be stripped as an example to others," Whitey's mechanical eyes were flashing red as its mechanical voice emotionlessly rang out.

Xiao Meng's eyes lit up as he fixedly stared at Whitey. He thought, "This is the mechanical puppet that injured Yanyu? It actually blocked my attack with ease! As expected, this store has some capabilities."

Xiao Meng's figure slightly twisted as another punch headed toward Whitey at a lightning fast speed.

Bang!

Bang bang bang!

As the two exchanged blows, their fists almost turned into a blur

as they continuously collided, and the muffled sound of their collisions rumbled within the store.

Bu Fang's pupils constricted from surprise. It was the first time that he had seen someone fighting with Whitey at this level. As expected of a seventh grade Battle-Saint.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was even more surprised. In her heart, the scary Uncle Xiao had always been the strongest person. She did not expect the adorable Whitey to be that formidable as well!

With a loud noise, the two took several steps backward.

Green smoke was coming from Whitey's mechanical palms while its mechanical eyes flashed at a rapid frequency.

Xiao Meng was slightly frowning as he shook his arms while taking a deep breath.

"System, isn't Whitey invincible? Why can't it defeat this middle-aged man?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked. He had always thought that Whitey was invincible.

"Whitey's strength is based on the host's level by adding four grades to the host's cultivation level. As the security of the store, Whitey is strong if the host is strong. Consequently, Whitey is weak if the host is weak," the system seriously explained.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched. His current cultivation

level was only third grade, which meant that Whitey was seventh grade. Would that mean it would only be able to draw with Xiao Meng, who was seventh grade as well?

"System, what if Whitey is unable to defeat the troublemaker?" Bu Fang asked the system in his mind.

"There's no need for the host to worry. Whitey is not the last line of defense. However, the host would still need to work hard to earn more crystals. The host should fight for the increment of your cultivation level to raise Whitey's combat strength to ninth grade," the system said.

Boom boom boom!

Xiao Meng had become serious after colliding with Whitey a few more times. For the number one expert within the empire to be unable to deal with the puppet of a little store, he would be a laughingstock if word ever got out.

Just when he was prepared to release a battle technique to settle the match, he suddenly felt a terrifying aura. This aura was invisible and intangible and directly applied on his mind, causing his body to freeze up. The battle technique that he just gathered within his hand was dispersed as well.

At the entrance, the sleepy big black dog gave a big yawn and its doggy eyes meaningfully glanced at Xiao Meng.

That single glance made Xiao Meng break out in sweat. He almost forgot about the mysterious dog lying at the entrance.

"Very well, your store has some capabilities indeed. I hope that you would really be able to save my daughter in two days. Otherwise... even if we perish together, I will make sure you pay with your life." As Xiao Meng's aura dissipated, the haze enveloping the store immediately disappeared. Both Ouyang Xiaoyi and Bu Fang felt relieved.

The intimidating aura disappeared just as quickly as it had appeared. Xiao Meng returned to his seat and opened the cloth cover of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. As he started to pour the wine, a rich wine aroma filled the store.

"The troublemaker's cultivation is quite strong. Unable to strip as an example to others..." Whitey's mechanical eyes were still flashing as it reported to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang expressionlessly patted Whitey's belly to indicate that it was alright and Whitey returned to the kitchen as well.

"Why did Xiao Meng stop?" Bu Fang puzzledly thought. "Could it be that the last line of defense mentioned by the system took effect? Then what was this last line of defense?" Bu Fang was suddenly curious.

After that, Xiao Meng did not cause any trouble. When he finished his food and drinks, he contentedly paid the check and left.

A seventh grade Battle-Saint was affluent and did not lack money.

Bu Fang expressionlessly watched as Xiao Meng left. The big black dog lying at the entrance also snorted and continued with its sleep.

"It's troublesome, this time around." Bu Fang took in a deep breath and was suddenly slightly nervous. If he really did not manage to produce the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup and failed to save Xiao Yanyu, this middle-aged man might really try to kill him.

While having such anxious thoughts in his mind, Bu Fang continued on with the business.

After the opening hours was over, he closed up the shop and started the second attempt of cooking the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

With the first attempt, he had already grasped the trick of using true energy as a medium. However, it was also his first time to cook using true energy, so he was unable to guarantee his success.

In summary, this was a job that required some skill.

Chapter 47: A System With A Venomous Tongue Would Not Be Loved By The Host

"Did General Xiao Meng really go to that restaurant?" The crown prince, Ji Chengan looked at Xushi in astonishment and puzzledly asked.

Xushi lightly stroked his long beard and the corner of his mouth curled up as he nodded. He was astonished as well, since he had not expected someone like General Xiao Meng to appear at that restaurant.

"Did you find out the reason why General Xiao Meng appeared at the restaurant?" The crown prince asked as he stood up and lightly paced about.

Xushi paused for a moment and was frowning as he uncertainty replied, "Perhaps General Xiao was attracted by the taste of the restaurant's dishes..."

The crown prince turned his head and stared at Xushi with a false smile. "Do you really think that your answer is realistic? General Xiao is a seventh grade Battle-Saint and has already reached a state where he does not need to consume food. Since he has no desire toward food and drinks, why would he go to a restaurant for the sake of delicious food?"

The corner of Xushi's mouth curled up. He really believed that General Xiao was there just to eat. The crown prince had not tasted the dishes of that restaurant, so he had no idea. He would not be

questioning that assumption if he had tasted that food at least once.

At any rate, from Xushi's point of view, that restaurant was really miraculous.

"Your Highness is right. I'll go and investigate right now," Xushi said as he performed the fist and palm salute without disputing.

"Go on. It seems that you really enjoy the dishes from that restaurant. Is it really that delicious?" The crown prince lightly glanced at Xushi and asked. He was naturally aware of Xushi's whereabouts.

"That's right, Your Highness. Especially the Boiled Fish... It's both delicious and tender!" Xushi's eyes lit up and replied. Immediately after, he remembered he was speaking to the crown prince, so he suddenly shut his mouth and withdrew with a forced smile.

"Boiled Fish... It sounds pretty good." The crown prince was startled for a moment and then a smile appeared on his face.

.....

As the night fell, the moonlight was like a veil as it draped a layer of afterglow over the land.

The kitchen of Fang Fang's Little Store.

Bu Fang took in a deep breath and took out a Blood Phoenix Chicken from the cage under the cabinet.

After pulling off the blood red feathers and removing the Blood Phoenix Chicken's intestines, Bu Fang followed the instructions of the recipe to cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup once more.

He sliced open a hole on the fleshy body of the Sage Herb and poured the juice into a small bowl. Then the Sage Herb was sliced into pieces and the other spirit herbs that were already processed were stuffed into the stomach of the Blood Phoenix Chicken. He finally took out the clay pot, then filled it with water from a spirit spring and placed the Blood Phoenix Chicken inside.

The clay pot was allowed to stew for a while until the light fragrance of the chicken meat drifted out. As Bu Fang uncovered the lid, a thick amount of steam mixed with the fragrance of meat and spirit herbs gushed out, giving him a refreshing feeling. He poured the Sage Herb juice into the clay pot and covered the lid. Then, it was time for the most important step.

"System, how do I use true energy to cook? Do I directly spray the clay pot with true energy?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked.

"True energy culinary: The chef nourishes the ingredients with true energy by permeating it through the kitchen tools. The chef will be tested on his ability to manipulate true energy and control over the taste of the dish."

Bu Fang was startled when he heard the system's explanation. As his gaze focused on the clay pot being roasted on the fire, he saw waves of hot air radiating from it.

"System, are you sure? If I place my hand onto the clay pot, wouldn't my hand be burned?" The corner of Bu Fang's mouth was twitching.

"This clay pot was specially made. It will automatically adjust the temperature once it detects true energy. There is no need for the host to worry," the system solemnly said.

Bu Fang was skeptical as he raised his hand and sparkling rays of light circulated on his palm. It was like a veil was draped over it.

A third grade Battle-Maniac was able to manifest true energy outside of their body and was also the minimum standard for true energy culinary.

Bu Fang had a solemn expression as he slowly placed his palm onto the lid of the claypot. A warm feeling was transmitted to his palm, but the hotness he expected did not appear.

"How amazing," Bu Fang exclaimed in surprise.

Then he closed his eyes and manipulated the true energy within his body. He slowly directed the true energy through the clay pot into the ingredients boiling inside...

It was a kind of invisible permeation that was as silent as a spring breeze in the night.

Through the lid, Bu Fang seemed to be able to feel the changes in the ingredients inside the clay pot. They were constantly absorbing spirit energy under the nourishment of true energy and the Sage Herb juice was constantly permeating into the meat of the chicken as well.

After half an hour of transferring true energy like this, Bu Fang slowly pulled back his hand and stopped.

There were fine beads of sweat dripping from his forehead. The loss of true energy was making him feel a little tired.

Bu Fang sat down on a chair to recover for around half an hour, then he carried on with the true energy culinary once more. The true energy within his body was controlled according to his wishes as it flowed into the clay pot and continuously nourished the ingredients.

After another half an hour, Bu Fang pulled back his hand once more. He heavily breathed out and used a towel to wipe off the sweat on his forehead.

At the moment, the kitchen was unknowingly enveloped within an extremely rich fragrance. There was the smell of meat, spirit herbs and Sage Herb mixed within the fragrance.

Compared to the day before, the fragrance was even more enticing. If the fragrance from before would make a person feel as if they were playing at a creek, then the current fragrance would make them feel as if they were exposed to a raging river.

Even Bu Fang could not help but sniff a few times as the rich fragrance was intoxicating. This was the result of true energy culinary. It was indeed superior to ordinary culinary and the taste would definitely be better as well.

The true energy was like a type of seasoning. After it was added into the ingredients, a special catalysis occurred and improved the taste of the ingredients. In addition, the spirit energy within the ingredients was more evenly distributed into various parts of the ingredients.

After stewing the ingredients and performing half an hour of cooking using true energy twice, the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was finally completed. Even Bu Fang was feeling extremely hungry as he breathed in the smell of the dish.

Carrying the clay pot to the table, Bu Fang uncovered the lid and a rich fragrance immediately gushed out. The hot steam, accompanied with the fragrance, spread into the air.

After greedily inhaling the air once, Bu Fang's gaze finally focused on the contents of the clay pot.

The moment he looked, an expression filled with indescribable happiness appeared on his face. "I succeeded!"

The Blood Phoenix Chicken was quietly lying within the clay pot. The meat was crystal clear like jelly and was slightly trembling due to the hot air bubbles. The color of the soup was amber and there was no essence floating in the soup like the day before. Evidently, the essence had completely permeated into the chicken soup due to cooking with true energy.

Bu Fang's stomach rumbled. The meat of the Blood Phoenix Chicken was as exquisitely beautiful as an artwork and looked extremely appetizing.

"System, this time the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup should be considered a success, right?" Bu Fang proudly asked the system. He was a genius. How difficult could true energy culinary be?

"It barely meets the eligibility criterion. Does the host really want the system to rate the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup this time?" the system solemnly asked.

Bu Fang was stunned for a moment. Before he could react, the system began to solemnly announce its rating.

"The host did not manage to fully preserve the Blood Phoenix Chicken during processing and the skin was slightly damaged. The Sage Herb juice was added too early and the pieces of Sage Herb were not sliced uniformly and thinly enough. The control during the true energy culinary process was feeble and the level of true energy was too weak. Overall rating: a Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup that barely qualifies."

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at the chicken soup. He suddenly felt that the soup that he thought was perfect had become not so perfect. The fragrance seemed to have weakened as well.

"A system with a venomous tongue would not be loved by the host!"

Bu Fang was exasperated. He decided to drink a bowl of chicken soup to calm down and switched his focus to the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

As it was the first time he was tasting a dish cooked using true energy, he was slightly excited.

Chapter 48: Too Much Nutrition Leads To A Nosebleed

Dense waves of hot air were drifting out from the clay pot and had enveloped the jelly-like meat texture of the crystal-clear Blood Phoenix Chicken within. The pristine chicken soup, which was amber in color, contained no trace of impurities and was richly aromatic. Under the light, the grease was shimmering and made it seem as if the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was embedded with numerous sparkling gems.

The color, smell, and taste were criterion to judge whether a dish met a certain standard. Even though the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was heavily criticized by the system, it was still a delicacy that was hard to come by, based on the three criterion.

The jelly-like meat of the chicken was especially appetizing and Bu Fang was already eager to have a bite.

He took out a small blue and white porcelain bowl and used a porcelain spoon to fill half of the bowl with the richly fragrant chicken soup. The fragrance that the amber chicken soup exuded was lingering around the tip of Bu Fang's nose, causing him to subconsciously lick his lips.

For a soup such as the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, there was a particular eating method as well. From the start, you must not immediately start with the meat. You should first drink a spoonful of soup and let the taste completely cover your mouth and stomach.

Once the stomach has been completely covered by the warm soup, you could then proceed to the meat. That way, you would be able to easily sample the taste of the meat and experience the tenderness of every bit of the chicken.

As he drank a spoonful of amber soup, the rich fragrance was like a bomb that exploded within his mouth and dominated his taste buds. The fragrance of the Blood Phoenix Chicken, the aroma of the Sage Herb, and the smell of the other spirit herbs had all burst forth at the same time.

Bu Fang felt as if he was roaming within a medicinal thicket on a mountain. As the medicinal plants swayed along with the wind, a thick aroma would drift toward him. A scarlet alluring Blood Phoenix Chicken was flapping its wings above the thicket and contentedly roaming about.

"Delicious!"

Bu Fang praised after drinking a spoonful, then his gaze focused on the meat of the Blood Phoenix Chicken that he had been coveting for some time.

The chicken skin was filled with elasticity after it was cooked using true energy. As Bu Fang tore off one of the drumsticks, a long strip of skin from other parts of the chicken was pulled off as well. The chicken skin also seemed to have become slightly transparent.

Even though the meat was blood red, there was no taste of blood

when he ate it. Compared to ordinary chicken meat, it was even more tender and could be easily swallowed without much chewing.

Bu Fang was holding onto a drumstick with relish as he continuously gnawed on it. Soon, an entire drumstick was completely finished and his lips were covered with oil.

The bones of the Blood Phoenix Chicken were permeated with a blood color as well and were exuding a fragrance different from the meat.

Filling up another bowl of chicken soup, Bu Fang was slowly enjoying the taste as he comfortably curled up on a chair. The feeling of eating one's fill was simply too marvelous.

Even though Bu Fang was tempted to finish the entire chicken by himself, he could not do it. The Blood Phoenix Chicken by itself was a spirit beast ingredient and was filled with a rich amount of spirit energy. Adding that to the valuable spirit herbs and the Heavenly Sage Herb, it was very nutritious dish.

Bu Fang was only able to eat that much even with the system's help in restricting the effects. If he continued to eat, he might burst open even with the system's suppression.

Even so, after Bu Fang stopped eating, he still felt as if his entire body was on fire and his eyes were practically spewing fire.

Bu Fang heavily breathed out and as he stood up. Blood was

actually streaming out from his nose.

It was too nutritious... to the point where he was having a nosebleed.

Bu Fang was expressionless. He originally intended to dump the rest of the meat into Whitey's stomach for recycling. However, after thinking for a while, he took the rest of the Blood Phoenix Chicken to Blacky while holding his nose.

"Here, Blacky. Time for supper," Bu Fang said in a muffled voice. Then he placed the Blood Phoenix Chicken in front of Blacky.

Blacky, who was lying on the ground with its eyes closed, suddenly opened them. Its doggy eyes were shining as brightly as a meteor shower.

"Owooo~" Blacky joyfully howled as it thought, "Human, you're finally tactful enough to know that you should show respect to your elders!"

Then, Blacky started to gobble down the Blood Phoenix Chicken.

Bu Fang returned to the kitchen and wiped off his nosebleed. He felt as his entire body was filled with inexhaustible energy and did not feel sleepy at all. And so, he lifted up that heavy custom made kitchen knife, then took out a few thousand radishes and started slicing them.

He could not stop at all...

The next day, Bu Fang was still full of energy even after cutting radishes for the entire night. He opened up the store and was officially open for business.

Fatty Jin and his buddies punctually arrived to eat.

"Owner Bu, why do I feel a murderous aura coming from you today?" Fatty Jin puzzledly stared at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at Fatty Jin. His tongue slightly licked his lips and he said, "Really?"

"Good heavens..." Fatty Jin subconsciously shuddered as he bewilderedly looked at Bu Fang. He thought, "Did Owner Bu lick his lips just now? Why did he lick his lips?"

After Bu Fang served all of the dishes that Fatty Jin ordered, he returned to the kitchen. After chopping radishes for the entire night, how could there not be murderous aura leaking from him...

The little loli, Ouyang Xiaoyi, happily skipped down her way to the store. It was her last day as the waitress and once the day was over, she was free to go.

"However... Why do I feel a slight reluctance?" Xiaoyi thought while tilting her head.

"Xiaoyi, serve the food."

Bu Fang's yell caused Ouyang Xiaoyi to give up on thinking about this problem.

"I am coming." Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly ran toward the familiar window and carried away the fragrant dish that Bu Fang had cooked.

As each of the familiar customers entered and left, the day's opening hours was about to end as well.

Ji Chengxue came that day as well. He was gentle and refined as usual and was not affected by the assassination attempt in the slightest. After not coming for a while, he discovered that there were many new dishes. He excitedly ordered each of the new dishes and satisfiedly left after eating.

The Great Secretariat Su hurriedly came as well. He had a soft spot for Egg-Fried Rice and only ordered that.

Xiao Yue was still carefree as he came and went. He only ordered a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and once again reserved a jar for the next day.

"I am so tired." Ouyang Xiao was slightly exhausted as she sat on the chair while panting. As the store became more popular, the amount of customers increased. Over the course of a day, it was

quite tiring as well. However, Ouyang Xiaoyi was satisfied with this sense of fulfillment.

"Smelly boss, I am about to advance to third grade Battle-Maniac! When the time comes, there are a lot of dishes I am going to order and taste, especially the Fish Head Tofu Soup!" Ouyang Xiaoyi said to Bu Fang as her large eyes blinked.

"Oh, alright. I'll wait for you," Bu Fang was also sitting down as he expressionlessly replied.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was particularly talkative that day and she was talking to Bu Fang non-stop. On the other hand, Bu Fang remained indifferent while occasionally nodding and replying with a "oh".

"Smelly boss, can you really save elder sister Yanyu tomorrow? I've always believed in you." Ouyang Xiaoyi became moody all of a sudden.

"There's no need to worry. You should trust me." Bu Fang was stunned for a moment. Then he stroked Ouyang Xiaoyi's head and slightly squeezed out a faint smile on his face.

"Smelly boss, your smile is really ugly!" Ouyang Xiaoyi disdainfully rolled her eyes at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang's expression immediately stiffened and returned to his expressionless appearance once more.

"The smelly boss is still better-looking when you're serious." Ouyang Xiaoyi chortled as she skipped toward the entrance of the store.

"Smelly boss, I'll come again tomorrow. You must save elder sister Yanyu, I believe in you!"

As Bu Fang looked at Ouyang Xiaoyi's disappearing figure, a touch of gentleness flashed across his eyes. He rubbed his hair that was being tied up by a woolen rope, then turned around and returned to the kitchen.

"How could I fail when I am this good-looking?" Bu Fang indifferently muttered to himself.

Regarding the rescue of Xiao Yanyu the next day, since he had already experienced cooking the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, he was confident that he would not fail.

He was calm because he was confident.

Chapter 49: The Big Black Dog That Strides Like A Cat

Bu Fang was yawning as he opened the front door of the store. A burst of cold wind blew into the store and was mixed with the cold autumn rain. The rhythmic drizzle was like a curtain as it completely enveloped the entire sky.

Entering the kitchen, he took out the radishes to carry out his daily knife skill training. Then he cooked a few other practice dishes and carried one of practice dishes that was still piping hot to Blacky.

"Blacky, it's time to eat," Bu Fang placed the dish within the store and called Blacky to come in. It was still raining outside and it would be bad to get wet.

As Blacky breathed in the fragrance, the lazy dog actually stood up and enchantingly strode into the store like a cat... Then it began to gobble down the food within the bowl.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he thought, "Why is a dog walking like a cat?"

Fatty Jin and his buddies were drenched as they entered the store while holding up umbrellas. They greeted Bu Fang with smiles on their faces and placed the oil-paper umbrellas at the entrance.

"Owner Bu, good morning. I'll have the same dishes as

yesterday," Fatty Jin sat down at a table and said toward Bu Fang as he patted his robe that was drenched in the rain. The other obese men ordered their dishes as well.

Bu Fang nodded and indifferently walked into the kitchen. After a while, a rich fragrance drifted out from it.

After sending off Fatty Jin and his buddies, Bu Fang was able to rest for a short while. It might be due to the rain, but there was fewer customers than usual.

"Smelly boss! Give me a serving of Fish Head Tofu Soup!"

A loud yell came from outside of the store. Before the person even appeared, her voice had already reached.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's face was filled with excitement as she ran into the store. Her trousers were slightly drenched from the rain, but she did not care in the slightest.

"Smelly boss, I've advanced! Hurry up and give me the Fish Head Tofu Soup!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes were flashing with excitement as she looked at Bu Fang with a face filled with expectations.

Bu Fang was stunned for a moment, then carefully observed the girl. He discovered that there really was a faintly discernible true energy lingering on her skin, which was the manifestation of true energy outside of her body. However, she was unable to skillfully control it, which meant that she had just advanced.

"Oh, alright. Wait for it," Bu Fang expressionlessly said, then entered the kitchen.

Ouyang Xiaoyi narrowed her eyes as a smile appeared on her adorable face. She was leaning on the window as she eagerly waited for the Fish Head Tofu Soup.

Bu Fang's speed was very fast. He was now extremely familiar with most of the dishes. Even though the cooking steps of the Fish Head Tofu Soup were troublesome, it was nothing for the current him.

The milky white fish soup was exuding a dense amount of hot air, while the flesh of the fish was delicious and tender, and the crystal-clear tofu was delicate and plump.

As Bu Fang placed the Fish Head Tofu Soup at the window, Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly carried it away. The two of them were well-coordinated and their actions were smooth and natural.

Bu Fang was soon startled as he thought, "Didn't her job end already?"

Glancing at Ouyang Xiaoyi who was happily drinking fish soup and eating fish, a faint smile appeared on Bu Fang's face.

Drinking a bowl of piping hot Fish Head Tofu Soup during a cold autumn rain was simply a comfortable thing to do.

At the entrance of the alleyway, several figures slowly made their way to the store. Their mood was stifling and heavy.

The Xiao family had brought the fading Xiao Yanyu over. However, none of the Xiao family members seemed to be hopeful and they had sorrowful expressions on their faces.

Xiao Meng was carrying his daughter, Xiao Yanyu, in his arms as he firmly walked toward Fang Fang's Little Store. His face was extremely grim. Since the imperial physicians had already stated that it was a hopeless situation, he could only entrust his hope to this store of unknown origins.

Since he was worried, he had the store investigated for a second time. Even though nothing was discovered, at the very least... he had an inexplicable confidence in the store.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he watched the Xiao family file into the store and beckoned them to sit down.

Xiao Yanyu's beautiful face was whiter than paper and without a single trace of blood. It was obvious that her life force was depleting rapidly and her aura was extremely weak.

"You said... you can save my sister. I believe in you, that's why I waited until today!" Xiao Xiaolong's voice was slightly hoarse as he stared at Bu Fang and said.

Bu Fang nodded and calmly replied, "I can definitely save her. However, I need a while to cook the medicinal cuisine. Wait here for a while."

"I am depending on you." Xiao Xiaolong heavily breathed in and performed a fist and palm salute to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang walked toward the kitchen to cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

Xiao Meng was sitting upright on a chair. His expression was extremely grave and no one could tell what he was thinking.

After entering the kitchen, Bu Fang began to make preparations.

He processed the Blood Phoenix Chicken based on the instructions and stuffed the spirit herbs into the stomach of the chicken. Then he placed the entire chicken into the clay pot and let it stew. Once the fragrance of the meat was starting to drift out, Bu Fang poured the Sage Herb juice that he already prepared into the clay pot.

Taking a deep breath, Bu Fang gathered the true energy within his body and placed his palm on top of the clay pot. A strange feeling immediately started to appear, as if his will and the dish were connected together. True energy continued to spew out and guide the cooking of the chicken soup.

Within the store, the members of the Xiao family were slightly

restless from waiting and were constantly pacing around the store. The rain outside was getting heavier and heavier, and the sound of the rain incessantly resounded.

"What are you so restless about? Sit down and quietly wait," Xiao Meng slightly chided the Xiao family members who were pacing about with his eyes still closed.

"Is... Is this store really reliable? Even the imperial physicians were unable to save the young lady, what can the owner of a restaurant do?" the housekeeper of the Xiao family mumbled to himself.

"That's what I am thinking as well. The imperial physicians were only able to prolong young lady's life. How could someone who isn't even a physician cure the young lady's injuries?" One of Xiao Yanyu's maidservants slightly sighed.

The others were chattering incessantly as well, expressing their suspicions toward Bu Fang.

"You're noisy! Shut up," Xiao Meng coldly bellowed. Immediately, all of them became quiet and did not dare to whisper among themselves anymore.

At the same moment, a rich fragrance drifted out from the kitchen. The fragrance of chicken meat and the aroma of spirit herbs were mixed within it.

Everyone was suddenly sniffing as they tried to capture the fragrance in the air.

Ji Chengxue was wearing a white robe as he leisurely approached. He placed his umbrella at the entrance and was immediately surprised when he noticed the crowd. As he entered the store, he realized that they were all from the Xiao family.

"Greetings to your Highness," Xiao Meng said as he performed a fist and palm salute to Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue had a gentle smile on his face as he nodded and responded with a fist and palm salute. Then after asking Xiao Meng, he found out that Xiao Yanyu was injured and needed the store's owner to treat her.

"Owner Bu is capable of treating injuries as well?" Ji Chengxue was astonished.

"Hahaha! This store is really secluded. It would've taken a while if I had to find this place on my own." A burst of laughter suddenly rang out from outside as two figures entered the store.

"The crown prince?" The members of the Xiao family were slightly bewildered. It was unbelievable that such a store would be able to attract two princes.

"Oh, so third brother is here as well. What a coincidence." The crown prince, Ji Chengan, slightly smiled and then performed a

fist and palm salute to Xiao Meng.

"Where's Owner Bu?" Xushi puzzledly asked.

"The smelly boss is preparing to treat elder sister Yanyu. The opening hours has ended earlier today," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly replied. She subconsciously became the waitress once again.

"Treat injuries?" A weird expression immediately appeared on the faces of the crown prince, Ji Chengan and Xushi. They actually came to a restaurant to treat injuries? Were they really not joking?

As the fragrance in the air intensified, everyone who was waiting began to experience hunger pangs.

After a long while, a slim and tall figure walked out of the kitchen with a piping hot clay pot in his hands.

Bu Fang expressionlessly walked out of the kitchen and placed the clay pot on a table.

"This is the Elixir Cuisine for saving Xiao Yanyu, the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup."

Bu Fang expressionlessly said as everyone puzzledly stared at him. After he finished talking, he uncovered the clay pot.

As the lid of the clay pot was removed, hot steam rose up and a

rich fragrance gushed out, spreading into the air. The crystal-clear chicken meat was slightly quivering and the amber chicken soup was gleaming.

The pupils of everyone present slightly constricted as they suddenly breathed in the fragrance.

Chapter 50: It Is Fine Even If Our Lips Are Touching, Since We Are All Good Sisters

"This smell!"

Everyone was stunned and they were subconsciously twitching their noses to capture the smell.

The fragrance of meat had completely enveloped the store. The aromatic chicken meat was slightly quivering like jelly as it exuded a rich fragrance. The color of the chicken soup was extremely beautiful as lights and colors overflowed everywhere.

As Xiao Meng's eyes slightly opened, his pupils were radiating brightly. He was staring intensely at the clay pot on the table and the blood-colored chicken meat contained within.

"What a dense amount of spirit energy!" Xiao Meng was extremely astonished as he sucked in a breath of cold air. With the terrifying senses of a seventh grade Battle-Saint, he could easily tell how much spirit energy was contained within the blood-colored chicken and that the amber chicken soup was filled with the aura of many valuable medicinal ingredients.

When he looked at the bowl of chicken soup, even he was subconsciously swallowing his saliva.

"This is... fifth grade spirit beast, Blood Phoenix Chicken?!" The crown prince was licking his lips while staring at the chicken meat

within the clay pot when he suddenly thought of something and shouted in pleasant surprise.

"Blood Phoenix Chicken?!" Xiao Meng was slightly baffled as he looked toward Ji Chengan.

"The Blood Phoenix Chicken is a fifth grade spirit beast that lives in the Triangle Prairies Zone of the Wildlands. This breed of chicken has blood-colored feathers, skin, and meat, but the meat itself is filled with spirit energy. Once it is cooked, consuming the meat strengthens one's vitality and recovers one's blood and energy. It is extremely difficult to obtain this ingredient," Ji Chengan clearly explained as he looked toward Bu Fang with an inquiring look.

Bu Fang nodded and expressionlessly replied, "That's right. This is a Blood Phoenix Chicken."

"I've seen it mentioned within the ancient records of the imperial palace. I didn't expect that it really was this kind of strange beast that lived within the Triangle Prairies Zones of the Wildlands." Ji Chengan lamented, but shook his head immediately after.

"Unfortunately, even though this Blood Phoenix Chicken is valuable, as Yanyu's injuries were due to the depletion of her life force, I am afraid that it would still be unable to treat her."

Bu Fang pursed his lips as he glanced at Ji Chengan, who was shaking his head.

"How could the Blood Phoenix Chicken that I cooked be that simple? Don't talk nonsense if you haven't tasted it."

Ji Chengan was startled as he unhappily looked toward Bu Fang. He was the crown prince, how dare this commoner speak to him in such a manner?

Ji Chengxue and the rest had already gotten used to Bu Fang's character. This fellow was someone who was afraid of nothing. Even if he was facing the crown prince, he would still dare to rebuke him.

Xushi's heart skipped a beat. How could the crown prince, who was used to being treated as a royalty, tolerate Bu Fang's discourteous words? In order to prevent the situation from worsening, he quickly stood out to mediate.

"Owner Bu, since you're so confident in this chicken soup, you should quickly let miss Yanyu drink it," Xushi said as he performed a fist and palm salute.

Xiao Meng was also slightly frowning as he said to Bu Fang, "Brat, I hope that your chicken soup is effective. Otherwise, you know the consequences."

"Relax, this soup is very effective," Bu Fang simply replied.

He first took a small blue and white porcelain bowl and filled it up with the amber-colored chicken soup using a porcelain spoon.

The oil inside the chicken soup was overflowing with lights and colors, and was neither greasy nor mild.

"This chicken soup is called Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. The main ingredients are the Heavenly Sage Herb and the Blood Phoenix Chicken. Over a dozen valuable medicinal ingredients were added during the cooking process as well. The true energy culinary technique was employed to ensure the essence of the Sage Herb would fully permeate into the chicken soup. It is abundant with spirit energy and supplements blood and life."

After Bu Fang gave an introduction, he brought the bowl of chicken soup to the pale and fading Xiao Yanyu.

Xiao Yanyu was very beautiful. Even though her skin had lost its luster due to the severe depletion of her life force, it was still unable to conceal her peerless looks. The dim look in her eyes was like the flowers withering in autumn as it elicited pity from others.

"Open your mouth and say ahh," Bu Fang said to Xiao Yanyu as he scooped a spoonful of fragrant chicken soup that was giving off heat.

Xiao Yanyu's eyelashes trembled as her deteriorating eyes glanced toward the chicken soup. Her lips slightly opened, but due to the depletion of her life force, she found it very difficult to open her mouth.

"Ahh your head..." Ouyang Xiaoyi thought as the corner of her mouth twitched. "Is there something wrong with the smelly boss' "

head? Can't he see that elder sister Yanyu doesn't even have the strength to open her mouth?"

Bu Fang poured the contents of the spoon back into the bowl in his hand and expressionlessly looked at Xiao Yanyu.

"What's wrong? Why aren't you feeding the soup to Yanyu?" Xiao Meng puzzledly looked at Bu Fang. The others were feeling curious as well.

Bu Fang glanced at them and simply replied, "Don't rush me. Let me think of a way to feed her."

"Eh... Ah?! What did he mean by that?"

Everyone was stunned for a moment, then they watched as Bu Fang drank a spoonful of chicken soup.

"What is he doing?" "Didn't he say he was going to feed the chicken soup to Yanyu? Why is he drinking it himself?"

Then, Bu Fang leaned forward and lowered his head toward Xiao Yanyu's mouth...

Xiao Meng was glaring at him and his nose was almost crooked from anger. "What is this brat doing? Why are you leaning so close to her? Are you trying to take advantage of my daughter?"

When Bu Fang and Xiao Yanyu's lips were just an inch away, Xiao Meng was unable to bear it any more and pulled Bu Fang away.

"What are you trying to do?!" Xiao Meng's entire body was exuding anger as he coldly stared at Bu Fang.

Gulp. Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at Xiao Meng and swallowed the chicken soup in his mouth. He smacked his lips and said, "I am feeding the soup to her. She doesn't have the strength to open her mouth."

"From what you're saying, it's as if you were thinking for my daughter..." Xiao Meng bewilderedly thought.

"Have you never heard that it's improper for a man and a woman who aren't married to have physical contact? Xiaoyi, come over here." Xiao Meng coldly glared at Bu Fang and beckoned Ouyang Xiaoyi to come over.

Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly ran forward.

"You'll feed the chicken soup to Yanyu. Just... follow his method just now." Xiao Meng coldly snorted as he recalled Bu Fang's actions just now. He was angry just from thinking about it.

Ouyang Xiaoyi nodded. She received the bowl of chicken soup that Bu Fang handed to her and drank a spoonful.

"Oh!" As the chicken soup entered her mouth, Ouyang Xiaoyi's

eyes immediately widened as she subconsciously swallowed with a gulp.

Everyone was expressionlessly looking at her.

"I am testing out the taste for elder sister Yanyu first. Hmm, the taste isn't bad at all." Ouyang Xiaoyi embarrassedly smiled, then she drank another spoonful and did not swallow it this time.

It is fine even if our lips are touching, since we are all good sisters.

A mouthful of chicken soup was passed into Xiao Yanyu's mouth and slowly flowed through her throat into her stomach.

Xiao Yanyu's eyes, that were like flowers withering in autumn, moved slightly. A touch of energy and liveliness seemed to appear within her dead gaze.

"Continue, don't stop," Bu Fang simply said.

And so, Ouyang Xiaoyi passed another mouthful of chicken soup into Xiao Yanyu's mouth. After three more times, Xiao Yanyu's eyes finally recovered some liveliness and she was able to drink the chicken soup herself.

"It works!" Xiao Xiaolong's eyes lit up as he excitedly clenched his fist together.

"Don't be hasty. Continue to feed her the chicken soup. Let her drink another bowl," Bu Fang expressionlessly said to Ouyang Xiaoyi and signaled her to continue.

Once Xiao Yanyu drank another bowl of chicken soup, Bu Fang stopped Ouyang Xiaoyi from continuing. Xiaoyi's adorable face was currently swollen and red, and looked extremely cute with her chubby face.

She actually drank a spoonful of chicken soup with her cultivation level. She was lucky that she was not having a nosebleed.

As Bu Fang was pulling off a drumstick, the jelly-like chicken skin was filled with elasticity as it stretched while he was tearing it. However, Bu Fang did not take the chicken skin and instead used a knife to slice off a piece of chicken meat. Then he diced it, mixed it within the chicken soup and continued to feed Xiao Yanyu.

After eating an entire drumstick and a few slices of Sage Herb in this manner, Xiao Yanyu's complexion had become rosy. Her life force that was constantly depleting had stopped as well and the energy and blood within her body had become much more abundant. Even though it was still lacking compared to ordinary people, this result was already much better than before.

"A bowl of chicken soup... was able to treat the injuries that even the imperial physicians were incapable of treating! This... chicken soup is too magical!" The people in the surroundings were

extremely astonished as they whispered among themselves. The suspicions they originally held toward Bu Fang had all disappeared.

Xiao Meng was quite shocked as well. However, it was soon replaced by excitement and happiness.

Xiao Yanyu's complexion was much rosier than before. Even though she was still pale, she had at least gained some liveliness. After recovering some strength, she lightly called out to Xiao Meng, "Dad... I am hungry."

She really recovered! Xiao Yanyu really recovered with a bowl of chicken soup!

Ji Chengan's eyes lit up like a vast sky full of stars at night as he stared at the chicken soup with a yearning gaze.

Ji Chengxue's eyes were burning brightly as well as he stared at the chicken soup.

At that moment, the two princes hankered for the chicken soup.

Chapter 51: Since I Told You To Cook, You Should Just Cook

Within the bleak autumn wind, the rain was being blown sideways.

At the entrance of the alleyway, a slim figure was slowly approaching. Wearing a bamboo hat and a straw raincoat with a sword slung behind his back, he was slowly walking toward the store in the alleyway.

Suddenly, the figure slightly quivered and stopped walking. It stood at the center of the alleyway and ceased to move.

Raindrops fell from the sky and splattered on his bamboo hat. Streams of water gathered from the raindrops flowed down the straw raincoat and dripped off the corners.

Xiao Yue's face was concealed by the black veil of the bamboo hat. His expression could not be seen and his emotions could not be perceived. He did not continue moving, but stopped a few steps away from the store and slowly took off the longsword wrapped in rags slung on his back.

"Buzz—"

In the surroundings of the alleyway, a series of sounds—which sounded like the sharp noise that bowstrings make when arrows are fired—suddenly rang out.

Schhwaff schhwaff schhwaff !

Countless crossbow bolts were suddenly launched from all directions, sailing through the air in a slightly curved angle. The target was Xiao Yue who was standing in the middle of the alleyway.

Rip!

As a crisp sound rang out, the rags wrapped around the longsword were immediately torn into pieces as a bright sword energy burst forth from the sword. It was like a meteor flying through the night sky as it drew an arc in the air.

A surging wave of true energy gushed out from his body and spread out along with the sword energy. The countless crossbow bolts broke into pieces and the fragments, accompanied by the raindrops, scattered onto the ground.

As the sword energy dissipated, over a dozen figures with very powerful auras suddenly appeared from behind the walls of the alleyway. Each of them was armed with a spear as they charged toward Xiao Yue.

"The Tiger Guards of the Xiao family... How nostalgic."

Xiao Yue's hoarse murmuring fluttered in the wind and he seemed to be chuckling to himself. Then the rain surrounding him

was instantly expelled, as if a distorted area was formed around him.

.....

Xiao Meng forcefully suppressed his agitation and only breathed a sigh of relief after he personally fed the chicken soup to Xiao Yanyu. The tremendous weight on his shoulders was finally lifted off.

"Thank you, Owner Bu," Xiao Meng solemnly said to Bu Fang as he performed a fist and palm salute.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded, while thinking, "You should be thankful."

Suddenly, Bu Fang's expression changed. He seemed to be hearing a series of metallic collision noises coming from outside the store. He immediately looked outside in uncertainty, but these noises quickly stopped and disappeared.

Xiao Meng's expression remained indifferent. He had naturally heard the sound of combat from outside but did not take any other actions. He continued to unhurriedly feed the chicken soup to Xiao Yanyu.

"Owner Bu, this chicken soup... Would it be possible for me to have a serving?" Ji Chengxue came forward with a gentle smile and asked Bu Fang.

Ji Chengan meaningfully looked at Ji Chengxue and stepped forward as well. He was slightly agitated as well as he said, "Owner Bu, give me a serving of this... Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup!"

"The effects of this Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup had already been proven. If Xiao Yanyu who had lost so much life force was saved after drinking it, then its recuperation effects was definitely powerful. If father could drink a bowl of this soup, then his body would definitely become much stronger. This soup would be great for pleasing father," Ji Chengan thought.

Even though the title of crown prince had already been conferred on him, he still did not dare to relax. His brother, King Yu had already coveted his position for a long time and knew how to please their father, the emperor. He was already feeling threatened at the moment.

If he could present this chicken soup to their father, he would definitely improve his father's impression toward him.

"Ji Chengxue is definitely having the same idea as well," Ji Chengan thought. He glanced at his third brother and sneered.

Compared to his second brother, his third brother was not a threat at all.

"Excuse me, but this Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup is a special dish. It is not for sale," Bu Fang indifferently replied.

The Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was given by the system so that he could use it to save Xiao Yanyu and not considered within the store's dishes in the first place.

"Owner Bu, crystals aren't an issue... I only wish that you would cook another serving of chicken soup," Ji Chengan unhappily said. When he heard Bu Fang's reply, he slightly frowned.

When Ji Chengxue heard Bu Fang's words, he did not continue asking. He was very familiar with Bu Fang's character and knew that the answer would be the same no matter how many times he asked.

Bu Fang pointed at the menu behind the crown prince and said, "Look at the menu behind you. This dish isn't on it, so... I am not selling."

"Hmph! You're so inflexible. Since I told you to cook the dish, you should just go and do it. Why do you have so much nonsense to say?" Ji Chengan's expression became gloomy as he swunged his sleeve in anger and coldly said.

With those words, the people in the surrounding immediately knew that the crown prince was angry. His temper was notoriously known within the imperial city to be irritable.

For the owner of such a small restaurant to infuriate the crown prince, he was definitely going to suffer.

Many people of the Xiao family looked toward Bu Fang in sympathy and secretly shook their heads.

On the other hand, Xiao Meng and Xiao Xiaolong took no notice. Xiao Meng understood very well how terrifying Bu Fang's store was. The mechanical puppet, not to mention the big black dog lying at entrance, was not something a mere crown prince could offend.

Dadada.

The atmosphere within the store had become cold due to the crown prince's words. However, clear footsteps coming from the entrance attracted their attention.

A figure wearing a straw raincoat and a bamboo hat stepped into the store.

"Owner Bu, I am here to retrieve the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that I reserved," a hoarse voice faintly rang out as dark red blood dripped off the tip of the longsword that the person was holding and splattered onto the floor.

"Oh, wait a moment," Bu Fang nodded and expressionlessly replied. Then he turned around and headed toward the kitchen.

"Stop!" Ji Chengan's eyes flashed with malice. How dare this fellow actually ignore him? Who was he? He was the crown prince!

How could he let others humiliate him like this?

With a bellow, Ji Chengan formed a claw with his hand and reached for Bu Fang's back figure.

Bang!

However, before Ji Chengan's attack was able to reach Bu Fang's body, it was intercepted by Xiao Meng. Xiao Meng indifferently glanced at the crown prince and said, "Your Highness, it's better not to make a move within the store. This is an advice from your humble servant."

After Xiao Meng finished speaking, his gaze turned toward the man wearing the bamboo hat and his expression turned cold.

"You really dare to appear," Xiao Meng ghastly said as a killing intent gradually emitted from his body.

"Father, your tiger guards are still as worthless as before." Xiao Yue remained as steady as a mountain under Xiao Meng's killing intent. He chuckled with a hoarse voice as he took off the bamboo hat and revealed a handsome face.

Xiao Yue?! The Heart-rending Sword Monarch Xiao Yue!

Everyone within the store sucked in a breath of cold air. Even the the crown prince who was furious at the moment narrowed his eyes.

The vicious person who severely injured his mother and betrayed his father for the sake of mastering the sword!

"Yanyu was injured because of you. You should know that you would definitely die this time around... I thought you already escaped." Xiao Meng slowly walked toward Xiao Yue. He was moving very slowly, but his aura became even more terrifying with each step.

With every step, the terrifying aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint covered the entire area with a loud rumble.

"Die? Father, you're still as confident as ever," Xiao Yue said with a faint smile. His eyes were almost narrowed into a crescent shape, but his words were unrestrained. "Unfortunately, you won't be able to stop the current me."

"I can't stop you?" Xiao Meng thought as he stopped walking. The distance between them was only an inch and their eyes were looking at each other.

Xiao Meng's aura was as heavy as a towering mountain range, while Xiao Yue's aura was as sharp as divine spear that could rend the sky.

Just as the collision between the two of them was about to occur.

At that very moment...

"Hey, here's your Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine."

An indifferent voice suddenly interrupted their confrontation.

Everyone immediately looked in astonishment toward Bu Fang who had just walked out of the kitchen with a jar of wine in his hands.

"This fellow... Is there something wrong with his head? Doesn't he understand the current situation? Why are you mentioning wine at this kind of moment?"

Both the gazes of Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue landed on Bu Fang.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he calmly received their sharp gazes. He twitched his mouth and said, "Let me remind you... Go outside if you're going to fight or cause trouble. Otherwise... you will be stripped as an example to others."

Chapter 52: The Oyster Bun That Is Available For Takeouts

The crown prince looked toward Bu Fang in astonishment, while thinking, "Is this fellow an idiot? He actually tried to reason with a seventh grade Battle-Saint and he even said that he would strip him... as an example to others? Does he have the strength and qualifications to say that?"

Ji Chengan could tell Bu Fang's cultivation level just from looking at him. A mere third grade Battle-Maniac could not even be considered as an ant in front of a Battle-Saint. Where did he get the courage to say those words?

Ji Chengan folded his arms across his chest as he looked on with interest. He was looking forward to watching Bu Fang being taught a lesson.

Other than the crown prince, many members of the Xiao family were looking at Bu Fang in the same manner. In their eyes, this brat was simply an idiot with poor judgement.

Both the gazes of Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue were like blades as they coldly landed on Bu Fang's body. The atmosphere within the store became much colder.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly holding the jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine in one hand while patting Whitey's wide belly with the other. Whitey had appeared next to him without anyone noticing and its mechanical eyes were flashing red.

Both the gazes of Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng slightly shifted toward Whitey's body. "This mechanical puppet..."

The mood became tense. Just when everyone thought Bu Fang was about to suffer a misfortune, Xiao Meng lightly exhaled. He turned around and walked toward the entrance of the store.

"I'll give Owner Bu some face today. Come out with me, we'll settle this outside."

The corner of Xiao Yue's mouth curled up and his expression became languid.

"Why should I go out just because you're telling me? Wouldn't that make me lose face?" Xiao Yue walked toward Bu Fang and received the jar of wine from him.

Xiao Meng stopped walking and looked back. He lifted up his hand and a burst of true energy gushed out from his hand. It turned into a stream and instantly coiled around the jar of wine in Xiao Yue's hand.

With a slight tug, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine flew across the air toward Xiao Meng.

Xiao Yue's pupils constricted as the aura emitting from his body suddenly changed. He tossed out a stream of energy as well, coiling it around the jar of wine.

"I said, if you're going to cause trouble... get out," Bu Fang expressionlessly said when he saw that the two were once again about to fight.

Both Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng angrily snorted at the same time as they dashed out of the store and appeared within the alleyway.

How terrifying! With the two of them gone, the atmosphere within the store immediately relaxed. Everyone was panting heavily with frightful expressions on their faces.

The crown prince, Ji Chengan, looked toward Bu Fang in incredulity. Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng actually listened to that fellow and went outside to fight... This was contrary to his expectations and completely different from his anticipation.

"He... What is he relying on?!" Ji Chengan heavily breathed out and said with a frown.

Xushi sighed. The crown prince did not know the terror of the store at all. He did not understand the terror of the iron lump puppet at all.

The others were looking at Bu Fang as if he was a monster as well. This little store owner actually forced a Battle-Saint to compromise.

"What are you looking at? The opening hours for today has

already ended. Please leave the store right now," Bu Fang glanced at them and expressionlessly ordered them to leave. He did not care about their astonished gazes in the slightest.

"Owner Bu, my..."

"I already said... This dish is not for sale. If you really want to eat this dish, you can prepare your own ingredients and bring them over," Before the crown prince could finish speaking, Bu Fang immediately interrupted him.

The crown prince was slightly furious that he was interrupted, but his eyes lit up from Bu Fang's words. If he brought his own ingredients, Bu Fang would be willing to accept the order?

Other than Ji Chengan, the eyes of Ji Chengxue and the others lit up as well.

"Alright, I'll be leaving then." After receiving the confirmation from Bu Fang, the crown prince was overjoyed as he turned around and left the store with Xushi. He was in a hurry to watch the battle between Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue.

The others left in droves as well. The battle between Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue was a rare occurrence that they could not afford to miss.

Xiao Xiaolong ordered the servants to carry Xiao Yanyu, whose injuries had already recovered but was still tired, and left as well.

With the blink of an eye, most of the people had already left and the store became deserted once more.

"Smelly boss, I am leaving as well. I will come back tomorrow." A smile appeared on Ouyang Xiaoyi's face as her eyes narrowed into slits. The smelly boss really did not lie to her and really saved elder sister Yanyu.

Bu Fang did not pay any attention to her as he turned around and entered the kitchen. Ouyang Xiaoyi stuck her tongue out at Bu Fang's figure and left while skipping.

That night, it was inevitable that the imperial city would not be quiet.

The Heart-rending Sword Monarch appeared within the imperial city and had an intense fight with Great General Xiao.

According to witnesses, the two experts seemed to be fighting over a jar of wine. They fought from the eastern side of the city to the western side, then back again to the eastern side. From the beginning to the end, the two remained in a deadlock as they fought over a jar of wine.

Great General Xiao's military prowess was unrivalled, while the Heart-rending Sword Monarch was capable of splitting the sky with a single sword strike. The battle between the two sent huge ripples through the imperial city and caused the situation, that was already turbulent, to become more unpredictable.

This battle caused the experts from the sects hiding within the capital to appear one by one. There were suddenly big and small battles erupting in various alleyways within the imperial city. The innumerable bursts of true energy were like gorgeous fireworks.

However, none of these were related to Bu Fang in the slightest.

After closing up the store, Bu Fang went into the kitchen. No matter how chaotic the outside became, the interior of the store would always be serene. All he needed to do was testing out the new dishes.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the abrupt mission: Learn the cooking method of Elixir Cuisine, the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, and rescue the dying beauty. The system reward will now be released."

"The system reward has been released. Will the host please check the contents."

As the system solemn's voice rang out in Bu Fang's mind, his eyes immediately light up and his mind settled down.

"System reward: Oyster Bun that is available for takeouts."

"Oyster Bun should be a type of snack," Bu Fang thought as the system had indicated that the Oyster Bun is available for takeout. From what he knew of the system's character, a main dish would

definitely not be allowed.

"So that's the kind of reward I get for slogging for half a day..." Bu Fang thought as he felt an inexplicable pity for himself.

"Oyster Bun is a characteristic snack. It is made using rice milk, shredded radish, oyster, chopped onion, minced meat and various other ingredients. It is deep-fried using special methods. The taste is delicious and has a rich aftertaste and fragrance that lingers in your mouth."

Bu Fang had never tried cooking the Oyster Bun on earth before, so he was quite interested in this new dish as well.

And so, while the battle outside was continuing, Bu Fang was joyously preparing to test out the new dish in the kitchen.

The ingredients of the Oyster Bun were prepared by the system and stored within a separate cabinet. Bu Fang took out a luscious white radish, which had a better quality than the ones that Bu Fang used in his knife skill training.

Just from holding the white radish in his hand, he could feel the rich spirit energy and juice inside.

Slicing radishes was naturally not an issue for Bu Fang. After turning the radish into long, thin strips, he placed them on one side. He took out a piece of meat, turned it into minced meat and placed it into a small bowl. The onion was chopped and then the

plump oysters were washed clean.

The oysters used were not ordinary as well. According to the system, they were the highest grade oysters obtained from the coastal area of the Southern Wastelands. Filled with an abundant amount of spirit energy, they were an excellent ingredient.

After he finished preparing the ingredients, Bu Fang started to prepare the rice milk. He needed to pay particular attention to the rice milk as it should not be too watery or too thick.

If the rice milk was too watery, the Oyster Bun would easily break into pieces. On the other hand, if the rice milk was too thick, the Oyster Bun would become too hard and affect the taste.

Taking out a miniature millstone from a cabinet, Bu Fang loosened his muscles and bones to get ready to personally grind the rice milk.

Chapter 53: The Clueless Oyster-Bun-Eating Spectators

The rice used to make the rice milk was naturally provided by the system. Every single grain was round and plump like pearls, and filled with an abundant amount of spirit energy.

He scooped up a ladle of rice and poured it into the millstone. After adding a ladle of peanut rice and water, Bu Fang began to gently turn the millstone. This millstone was relatively primitive and its surface was somewhat glossy.

After gently milling for a while, slightly thick rice milk began to flow out into the blue and white porcelain bowl that Bu Fang placed beneath the millstone.

After collecting the rice milk that he needed, Bu Fang cleaned the millstone and took out a wok. He filled half of the wok with high quality oil, turned on the stove and waited for the temperature of the oil to rise.

The wok spatula used to deep fry Oyster Buns had a special shape. It was not semicircle like normal wok spatulas but was slightly flat instead.

After adding a layer of rice milk on the flat surface of the wok spatula, he spread the shredded radish and chopped onion on top of the layer of rice milk. After adding two more layers of rice milk and minced meat in between, he placed a plump oyster at the top and added another layer of rice milk to wrap up all the ingredients,

creating a hemisphere shape.

Once the temperature of the oil within the wok was hot enough to scald, he dipped the wok spatula containing the Oyster Bun into the oil. Immediately, the oil was spattering everywhere and pale yellowish bubbles were forming around the rice milk.

As the Oyster Bun couldn't be flipped during the deep frying process, it tested the chef's control over the heat and timing. The taste would be affected whether it was too raw or overcooked.

Once the exterior of the Oyster Bun had completely turned into a golden color, Bu Fang took it out from the wok and placed it into the wire netting he had already prepared to drain the oil.

A hemisphere-shaped Oyster Bun was completed once the oil was completely drained.

As the rice milk was not too thick, the ingredients inside of the golden crust were still visible and lines could be seen. The fragrance of deep fried food was exuding from the Oyster Bun and had a very unique smell.

As peanut rice was added during the milling process, the rice milk was particularly fragrant after it was deep fried. Moreover, the residual heat from the oil and the rice milk crust caused the ingredients to be naturally cooked and allowed the fragrance to complement each other. More importantly, the aroma of the oyster which contained a trace of ocean flavor would linger around the tip of one's nose and was difficult to disperse.

Bu Fang was already feeling famished when he saw the Oyster Bun. While another Oyster Bun was still being deep fried, he picked up the Oyster Bun that was finished and eagerly took a bite.

Crunch...

The crispy texture, the rich taste, and the savory juice from the shredded white radish instantly entered his mouth and enveloped it. It was like the delicious taste had directly rushed into his brain as the pores in his whole body slightly opened.

Crispy, fragrant, delicious! Only these three words could describe this Oyster Bun. After taking the first bite, one would be unable to help but take the second bite. With this second bite, Bu Fang tasted the meat. The flavor of the meat instantly burst forth and directly rushed into the depths of his heart.

With a third bite, Bu Fang tasted the plump oyster. The oyster was not deep fried as it was wrapped within the rice milk, so it retained the fresh taste of seafood. Accompanied with the shredded radish and minced meat, it was so delicious that he wanted to swallow his own tongue.

The taste of the Oyster Bun... was unexpectedly delicious!

Bu Fang endured the urge to completely finish the entire Oyster Bun and took out the other Oyster Bun from the wok to drain the oil.

After deep frying three Oyster Buns, Bu Fang did not continue further.

The Oyster Bun needed to be eaten immediately. If it was left unattended for too long, the juice of the radish and steam would cause the crust to soften and lose that crispiness, which would affect the taste.

After finishing three Oyster Buns, Bu Fang was still slightly craving for more. His mouth was filled with the taste of the Oyster Buns and he was overwhelmed with the urge to taste more.

He cleaned up the kitchen and returned to his room to sleep. During normal circumstances, he would maintain his sleep habits.

The next day, the weather was clear and the sun was shining warmly.

Bu Fang accidentally overslept a little, so he got up slightly later than usual. However, it was not a big deal.

After washing up, Bu Fang opened up the store. There was already a line of people waiting outside and Fatty Jin and his buddies were already waiting for quite some time.

"Oh my, Owner Bu, you are slightly slower today," Fatty Jin grumbled, but the expression on his face was still very happy. He was already used to eating breakfast at Bu Fang's restaurant every

morning and according to him, "It was the greatest happiness to eat Bu Fang's dishes once everyday."

"Yes, I was preparing a new dish, that's why I was slightly slower than usual," Bu Fang unabashedly said.

"A new dish?" Fatty Jin was immediately excited when he heard that. He turned his head to look at the menu on the wall and saw that there was indeed a new dish at the bottom.

"Oyster Bun, two per serving, five crystals (takeout permitted)."

"Oyster Bun? I've never heard of this dish before," Fatty Jin thought as he went into a daze. "It seems to be very awesome from the sound of it."

"Then owner, I would like to have a serving of this Oyster Bun," Fatty Jin readily said. He was a nouveau riche and did not lack money.

"You can order other dishes first, then ordered the Oyster Bun as takeout and eat while walking," Bu Fang reminded him.

Fatty Jin immediately realized his mistake as he nodded and ordered other dishes.

After memorizing the orders, Bu Fang turned around and entered the kitchen and began to prepare the dishes.

Ouyang Xiaoyi skipped into the store. Even though she no longer needed to work as the waitress, she was still habitually coming to work.

Bu Fang was not opposed to this either and allowed her to do as she pleased.

"Xiaoyi, isn't it an important day for the Ouyang family? Why are you still working today?" While Fatty Jin was waiting for his food to arrive, he was slightly bored and started chatting with Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Eh? Is there something big happening?" Ouyang Xiaoyi was startled.

Fatty Jin continued and said, "It's not really that big of a deal. It's already spread within the entire imperial city that His Majesty ordered Great General Xiao Meng and General Ouyang to jointly host today's execution. They're executing those experts from the sects at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery."

"I know, right? I heard the leaders from the Death Soul Palace are all sixth grade Battle-Emperors... They're actually going to be executed together. The entire empire was shocked by the news. This time His Majesty is really determined to intimidate those sects outside of the border."

"Old Jin, let me tell you. I am afraid that this execution won't proceed smoothly. Didn't a great battle occur between Great

General Xiao and the Heart-rending Sword Monarch yesterday? Do you know what happened? The Heart-rending Sword Monarch actually escaped!"

"Other than the mysterious Celestial Arcanum Sect, experts from the other nine great sects have all gathered within the imperial city to stop today's execution. I am afraid that an earth-shaking battle will happen today! Have you not noticed that there are several times more guards within the imperial city than usual?"

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When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard the discussion of the customers, she suddenly became absent-minded. She thought, "According to what they're saying, doesn't that mean father and elder brothers would be in danger?"

"Xiaoyi, serve the dishes," Bu Fang's indifferent voice drifted out from the kitchen and interrupted Xiaoyi's thoughts.

When Fatty Jin and the rest finished their meals, Bu Fang had also finished deep frying the Oyster Bun.

There were six people within this group of obese men and each of them ordered a serving of Oyster Buns. With a dozen of Oyster Buns, they had to wait for quite a while.

"This is the Oyster Bun? It's so fragrant!" Fatty Jin looked at the two pieces of Oyster Bun wrapped in bamboo leaves in his hands

and swallowed his saliva. The golden Oyster Bun was exuding a rich fragrance that stimulated his appetite.

Bringing along their fascination toward the Oyster Bun, the group left Fang Fang's Little Store.

"Old Jin, why don't we take a look at the execution grounds? Six Battle-Emperors are being executed, there's no way we can miss such a grand occasion," one of them said and the rest immediately agreed.

And so, a group of obese men was holding Oyster Buns in their hands as they majestically headed for the execution grounds, planning to eat along the way, and became clueless Oyster-Bun-eating spectators.

Chapter 54: The Disturbance Triggered By The Oyster Buns

Outside the walls of the imperial palace, in front of the entrance to the towering imperial court.

There was a large group of people forming up a long queue. These group of people were all well-known people within the imperial city. Along with their followers, they were waiting to enter the Gate of Heavenly Mystery within the imperial palace.

There were countless armor-wearing soldiers standing guard at the entrance to the imperial palace. Every single person that entered would go through an inspection.

This time, the orders from the emperor to execute the prisoners from Death Soul Palace had aroused the interest of many people and created huge ripples within the imperial city. The court officials were not the only ones who did not expect it, but even the experts from sects outside the border were caught unprepared.

Fatty Jin and his buddies majestically arrived. However, as they were not court officials, they did not have the authority to go by the backdoor and could only obediently queue up.

However, their luck was excellent. Just when they arrived, the first wave of spectators were allowed to enter. And so, they followed the crowd and Fatty Jin carried the Oyster Buns into the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

The Gate of Heavenly Mystery Square was specially built by the imperial palace. Its surface area was large and wide, and many important ceremonies and events, like the imperial sacrifices, were conducted there.

On that day, the atmosphere within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery was extremely cold. An execution platform was set up in the middle and was surrounded by guards that were there to maintain order.

On the execution platform, there was a judicial desk made from sandalwood and two high chairs. Xiao Meng, who was fully armored, was sitting upright on one of the chairs. His red cloak was fluttering in the wind, like a rolling sea of blood.

Ouyang Zongheng was also wearing armor. His long hair was tied with a black woolen rope while two bangs of hair were drifting with the wind in front of his forehead. His gaze was solemn while his expression was cold.

The two of them were like statues as they sat on top of the high chairs. Regardless of the chilliness of the autumn wind, their expressions were still that cold.

Suddenly, Ouyang Zongheng raised his head and looked at the sky. The clouds were slowly moving due to the autumn wind blowing, but could never block the radiance released by the scorching sun.

"It's time, bring the prisoners to the execution platform."

With a solemn expression, Ouyang Zongheng's indifferent voice resounded around the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery, causing the clamoring audience to become silent as they gravely looked toward the execution platform.

The sound of chains colliding rang out. From a distance, guards were escorting six men with disheveled hair in prisoner clothes while they slowly approached. Their hands and feet were bound by cold shackles.

.....

As Fatty Jin ripped the bamboo leaves, the golden and slightly hot Oyster Bun was revealed. The rich fragrance drifted out and dispersed through the surroundings, causing the spectators around him to sniff the air.

A smile appeared on Fatty Jin's face as he intoxicatedly inhaled the smell and the pudgy flesh on his face was slightly trembling from happiness.

"Owner Bu's dishes are definitely the best. With such a sweet fragrance, the taste is definitely delicious as well," Fatty Jin thought as he opened his mouth and took a bite.

Crunch! A clear sound rang out. The crispy texture caused Fatty Jin's eyes to open wide in astonishment. After the crispiness, it

was the tenderness and juiciness of the shredded radishes that flowed into his mouth. Immediately, an indescribable aroma flooded his mouth and even gushed out from his nostrils.

"Oh, my heavens! It's so delicious!" Fatty Jin was enthralled as he took another bite. With this second bite, he tasted the meat and the aroma abruptly upgraded to the next level.

Gulp!

Even Fatty Jin did not expect that with the two bites, the fragrance of the Oyster Bun would immediately diffuse. That fragrance was like silk brushing across skin as it drifted into the air with the help of the autumn wind.

The rest of the obese men could not help it any longer and ripped open their own Oyster Buns. As they each bit down on the Oyster Buns, a series of crunching sounds rang out and lingered around a corner of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

A burst of fragrance might not be concentrated enough. However, if several bursts of fragrance were released at the same time, and with the help of the autumn wind, it would turn into a surging wave.

The fragrance of the Oyster Bun was like an aroma bomb. With several aromatic explosions happening at the same time, the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery began to clamor.

"What the?! This smell... Who's releasing poison at the execution grounds?!"

"It's so fragrant! It's really fragrant! How could it possibly be so fragrant?!"

"Are you still human! Is this the sort of place to eat delicious food? I just want to say... Give me a serving as well!"

.....

The Gate of Heavenly Mystery was in complete chaos. Everyone was constantly looking for the source of the fragrance. They had never smelled such a sweet fragrance.

The guards immediately increased their vigilance. However, as they inhaled the fragrance, they could not help but swallow their salivas as well. This smell seemed to possess magical powers as it instantly infiltrated their marrows.

Crunch... Fatty took another bite of the Oyster Bun. Immediately, he became intoxicated once more as he tasted the plump oyster. He opened his mouth to exhale and the fragrance gushed out.

"Get lost! Don't eat in front of me..." A sullen voice rang out next to Fatty Jin. The cold voice seemed to have permeated from the netherworlds.

Fatty Jin was startled. When he turned his head, he saw a man that looked slightly ugly standing next to him. The man was swallowing his saliva while looking at him with a cold gaze.

"Who the hell are you? So what if I am eating, how is it any of your business? I am going to continue eating, what are you going to do about it?" Fatty Jin said as he took another bite of Oyster Bun and snorted.

The ugly man fiercely glared at Fatty Jin and clenched his fist tightly, as if he was going to smash Fatty Jin's annoying face.

However, when the man thought about the sect's plans later, he suppressed his anger and coldly glanced at Fatty Jin and said, "Damn fatty, just you wait!"

"Oh hoh! You're even threatening me. I am definitely going to eat in front of you today, why don't you bite me!" Fatty Jin said as he finished the rest of the Oyster Bun with a single bite. Then he took out the second Oyster Bun from the bamboo leaves and brandished it in front of the man.

The man took a deep breath and the blue veins on his fists became apparent.

At that moment, the six prisoners were already kneeling down on the execution platform with their heads hanging down. Beside each of the prisoners, there was a burly executioner with red scarves wrapped around their heads. They looked boorish and exuded powerful auras. Every single one of them was a fourth

grade Battle-Spirit.

The spectating crowd became quiet once more. The temperature within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery seemed to have become much colder in that moment as a killing intent instantly burst out from the center of the execution platform.

Xiao Meng glanced toward the scorching sun. Then with a wave of his hand, a token made from black iron immediately floated up from the judicial desk. The word "behead" was inscribed upon it.

Just when he was about to throw the token, he suddenly sensed something and puzzledly looked toward the direction of the crowd.

"Damn fatty! Ahh! I am going to kill you!"

A roar filled with anger and grief rang out as a terrifying true energy burst out from that location.

"Hmm? Soul refinement true energy from the Soul Sect?" Xiao Meng muttered as his eyes narrowed and briefly flashed for a moment.

Following the initial outburst, sources of true energy started appearing one by one among the spectators gathered at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and were followed by bone chilling shouts.

The levels of the true energy were extremely powerful. Each of them were at the level of a fifth grade Battle-King.

Without a doubt, the experts from the sects were making their move!

However, Xiao Meng and Ouyang Zongheng were both slightly baffled as the timing utilized by the experts from the sects was strange...

Bang bang bang!

One by one, the Tiger Guards of the Xiao family standing near the execution platform charged into the crowd toward the source of the auras.

Fatty Jin's face went pale while the pudgy flesh throughout his entire body began to tremble as he looked toward the ugly man, who seemed as if he had just instantly become a towering mountain.

"Elder brother... I won't mess around anymore... You can eat this Oyster Bun..."

"Eat?! I'll eat your sister, you damn fatty!"

The ugly man was currently feeling anguish. The instant he released his true energy, he knew that all the plans... were thrown into disorder!

The meticulous plot of the ten great sects to interrupt the execution was actually ruined by an... Oyster Bun!

Who the hell cooked this heinous Oyster Bun?!

Chapter 55: Someone Is Causing Trouble... Owner Bu, Are You Going To Intervene?

"What's going on?! Why is there someone not following the plan?! Hun Qianduan, how did you educate your subordinates?!"

Within the crowd, the expression of a smiling merchant, who wore an embroidered robe, suddenly changed and became gloomy as he asked the hunchbacked elderly man next to him in a hoarse voice.

The hunchbacked elderly man's face contorted as he straightened his body and cold words drifted out from his mouth as well, "Xiao Yue, don't use that kind of tone with me. I am not your subordinate..."

The elderly man's face continued to contort, then suddenly, it actually peeled off like flowing water and turned into a pale looking face. His eye sockets were deeply sunken and there seemed to be a ghost fire pulsing within.

"Very well! The Soul Sect is indeed formidable... If the plan fails, you'll be assuming responsibility for it." The plump body of the rich merchant suddenly shrunk and as the clothes exploded into pieces, a lean and tall figure was revealed.

A handsome face that was like a piece of ice that did not melt in ten thousand years glanced at Hun Qianduan. With the sonorous cry of a sword, Xiao Yue's body flew into the air as true energy surged out from him. His figure immediately charged toward the

execution platform, leaving a contrail at his wake.

Hun Qianduan's expression became sullen and he coldly snorted. The tip of his toes tapped against the ground and he flew into the air. His black robes spread open and soul refinement true energy surged out.

At the center of the execution platform, Xiao Meng's eyes narrowed as he raised his head and looked toward the two figures approaching. He slapped the table and angrily yelled with a voice like rolling thunder as it dispersed into a distance.

"You fiend! I wasn't able to kill you yesterday, but you won't be able to get away today!"

Boom!

The terrifying aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint suddenly skyrocketed as Xiao Meng turned into a stream of light and charged toward Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan.

The corner of Ouyang Zongheng's mouth widened into a smile as he fiercely stomped the ground and charged out. He landed on the execution platform and knocked away two experts from the sects that were charging toward the platform with a sudden palm strike.

"With I, Ouyang Zongheng, overseeing this execution, who has the audacity to be impudent?!"

Within the crowd, powerful auras continued to appear. The Tiger Guards of the Xiao family had already made contact and were fighting with the experts from the sects. The sound of battle could be heard throughout the Gate of Heavenly Mystery as it suddenly turned into a field of blood.

.....

Deep within the resplendent imperial palace, an elderly figure was sitting on the imperial throne with a white-haired eunuch in robes standing next to him, with his head lowered.

The elderly figure was wearing a purple crown embedded with gems with his hair tied up and a [golden headband embroidered with an illustration of two dragons vying for a pearl](#). Even though his appearance was old, the domineering aura of an emperor was still present.

Golden headband embroidered with an illustration of two dragons vying for a pearl - This is an accessory that originated from the Spring and Autumn Warring States period. The phrase used by the author was from the Dream of the Red Chamber.

"Is the matter of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery proceeding smoothly?" A slightly low voice came from the emperor's mouth.

"Your Majesty, Great General Xiao and General Ouyang have already begun the execution. The experts from the sects hiding within the imperial city finally lost their patience and made a move," the corner of the white-haired eunuch's mouth curled up as he slightly bowed and uttered with a high-pitched voice.

"They have no choice but to raid the execution grounds. After all, they can't afford to lose six Battle-Emperors... That's why even though they know that this is a trap that I set for them, they would still jump into it... Cough," the emperor faintly smiled with unfathomable eyes and lightly coughed.

"Your Majesty is brilliant. The sects will definitely be destroyed and the Light Wind Empire will regain its peace," the eunuch lightly patted the emperor's back as he softly said.

The emperor waved him away as he lightly sighed, "I know my own body very well. I know that I won't be able to last until all the sects are destroyed, otherwise I wouldn't have laid such a trap for them... Xiao Fu, go help them as well. According to our intelligence, out of the ten great sects, only the old foxes from the Celestial Arcanum Sect aren't participating. The other sects should've dispatched quite a number of experts. I am afraid that General Xiao won't be able to cope with it."

The white-haired eunuch took a step, slightly bowed and said, "As you command."

The lonesome emperor watched as the eunuch left. He was the only person left in such a big palace.

"With Xiao Fu helping out, this time... should be in the bag. Even if they're not completely destroyed, it should be enough to greatly damage them... Cough, cough, cough."

.....

The battle at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery was extremely harsh. The number of experts from the sects that infiltrated was slightly out of the expectation of Xiao Meng and the others. The soldier standing guard at the entrance had also been slaughtered as countless experts charged in.

Xiao Meng was unmatched in indomitability as he faced the Battle-Emperor Xiao Yue along with the peak-level Battle-Emperor Hun Qianduan, and actually managed to suppress both of them to the point where they could only passively defend.

Ouyang Zongheng faced numerous enemies as he aggressively protected the execution platform and prevented anyone from approaching. As the experts from the sects charged into the fray, the imperial guards joined the battle as well. The two armies started fighting.

There were experts appearing on both sides of the forces. As the battle became even harsher, warm blood continued to spray onto the tiles of the solemn Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

"Fiends from the sects, it's time for you to die!"

Just when everyone was fighting, a high-pitched angry yell came from the depths of the imperial palace. A white-haired figure flew out, lightly waved a horsetail whisk, and joined the battle.

Xiao Yue's expression changed and he was startled, "Chief Eunuch, Lian Fu! Isn't he always protecting the emperor? He actually made a move as well!"

Hun Qianduan's expression was unsightly as well as he quietly cursed. The cultivation level of the Chief of the Eunuchs was comparable to Xiao Meng. With both of them working together, even though they had more Battle-Emperors on their side, there was still no chance of winning.

"As expected, this is Ji Changfeng's trap! We've been deceived! Let's retreat!"

.....

"Smelly boss, since there's no customers around today, can I go back earlier?" Ouyang Xiaoyi asked Bu Fang, who was curled up on a chair near the entrance, with a pout on her face.

There were indeed less customers than usual. After Fatty Jin and his buddies left, only a few other customers sporadically turned up. His regular customers like Ji Chengxue and the others did not appear at all.

"Alright, you can go back first," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied. It was comfortably warm under the autumn sun and it was making him drowsy.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard Bu Fang's reply, her eyes started

smiling. She charmingly nodded, then impatiently dashed out of the store and headed for the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

After hearing the discussion between Fatty Jin and his buddies, she had been feeling restless. After all, her father was one of the people in charge of the execution. If what they said was true, then her father would be in danger.

She lightly sighed as she was about to walk out of the alleyway. However, just as she reached the entrance, she felt a terrifying aura surging toward her.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's expression immediately changed. Without even thinking about anything, her body automatically turned around and headed the way she came from.

However, before she could take a second step, she discovered that a figure had appeared next to her. Then she felt a powerful arm grabbing hold of her and lifting her up.

"Xiao Meng! Stop! Otherwise, I'll kill the young lady of the Ouyang family!"

Xiao Yue hoarsely shouted. He was bleeding all over his body and the smell of blood was even wafting out from his mouth. His eyes were like those of a fierce wolf as he glanced toward his pursuers: Xiao Meng and the white-haired eunuch, Lian Fu.

Hun Qianduan's chest had deeply caved in and there was not

even the slightest color on his pale face.

"Retreat into the alleyway. Do you see the store there? Go inside," Xiao Yue indifferently said toward Hun Qianduan while clutching Ouyang Xiaoyi with one hand.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's adorable face was rosy red as she randomly flailed her limbs around. While panting with rage, she angrily scolded, "Xiao Yue! Let me down this instant!"

Xiao Yue did not have the leisure to pay any attention to Ouyang Xiaoyi. His eyes were coldly watching the movements of Xiao Meng and Lian Fu as he retreated toward the entrance of the store with Hun Qianduan.

Bu Fang's eyes had just closed when he heard Ouyang Xiaoyi's unique way of cursing. Immediately, he puzzledly opened his eyes and saw Xiao Yue, who was injured all over and carrying Ouyang Xiaoyi, and a man who looked like a ghost, charging into the store.

Bu Fang was slightly startled. What was going on?

Xiao Yue let go of Ouyang Xiaoyi as he collapsed onto the ground and continuously vomited blood. He hurriedly took out an elixir from his bosoms and swallowed it, stabilizing his injuries.

Only after doing all of this, Xiao Yue smiled at Bu Fang with a pale complexion.

"Owner Bu, someone is causing trouble in your store... Are you going to intervene?"

Chapter 56: Don't Smile... I Might Just Throw You Out

There was blood trickling from the corner of Xiao Yue's mouth and his handsome face had become slightly ghastly. However, he was still forcing himself to smile as he looked at Bu Fang.

"Owner Bu, someone is causing trouble in the store... Are you going to intervene?"

Hun Qianduan, whose face was as white as paper, looked toward Xiao Yue as if he was looking at a madman, while thinking, "This fellow... Is he injured in the head? What kind of nonsense is he spouting? There's two seventh grade Battle-Saints right outside! What is he trying to do by asking the owner of a store for help?"

"Have you gone mad?! Cough... This guy is only a Battle-Maniac. Do you really think he can help us?" Hun Qianduan was coughing blood as he shook his head in despair and said.

This time, the nine great sects had really suffered an immense loss. At least half of their experts were killed during the rescue operation. They did not expect that Ji Changfeng would be that vicious!

"Shut up! If your useless subordinate didn't expose his identity beforehand... Would the result of this operation turn out like this? Your Soul Sect will be taking responsibility for the failure of this operation!" Xiao Yue's eyes went cold as he glanced at Hun Qianduan. "Right now, I don't want to argue with you. If you want

to continue living, then you should obediently shut up. This store isn't as simple as you think!"

"You!"

Hun Qianduan was so riled up that the injuries at his chest began to ache. He could not bear it any longer and coughed out a large mouthful of blood once more. He hurriedly fished out elixirs from his bosom and shoved them into his mouth.

Xiao Yue turned around and looked at Bu Fang with hope in his eyes. He knew that his only chance of survival was to rely on Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was curled up on a chair. With the sunlight shining on his face, he looked slightly holy.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was panting with rage as she hid behind Bu Fang and angrily glared at Xiao Yue. She thought, "This bad man... He actually dared to lift me up! And even said he would kill me! Simply unforgivable!"

Bu Fang expressionlessly stared at Xiao Yue, while Xiao Yue calmly looked back at him.

Finally, it seemed that Xiao Yue could not stand Bu Fang's indifferent gaze any longer. His heart quivered and he could not help but look away.

Bu Fang satisfactorily nodded and thought, "That's right, who's afraid of a staring contest!"

"Owner Bu?" A deep voice came from outside the store. Xiao Meng, who was in armor, vigorously approached with a solemn expression.

"What do you want?" Bu Fang puzzledly looked at him.

"Owner Bu, criminals wanted by the imperial court entered your store just now. I desire to enter your store to catch them." Xiao Meng was slightly fearful of the mysterious store.

An owner with an unknown background, a mysterious and powerful big black dog, and a puppet that was a match for a Battle-Saint... If he tried to forcibly enter, it probably would not end well.

Lian Fu was baffled as he looked at Xiao Meng. Swinging his horsetail whisk and [pinching his thumb and index finger together](#), he said with a high-pitched voice, "General Xiao, why aren't we going in to catch the fiends from the sects that are hiding inside? Don't tell me you still consider that fiend as your son?"

"pinching his thumb and index finger together" (兰花指) - In Chinese culture, eunuchs and homosexuals are often depicted doing this sort of gesture.

"[Gong gong](#), you don't understand... This store isn't simple. Forcibly entering is inadvisable!" Xiao Meng solemnly said.

Gong gong (公公) - In the past, people address eunuchs as gong

gong as a form of respect. The term, gong gong, also refers to grandfather or a married woman's father-in-law.

"General Xiao... How could a mere store situated within the alleyways of the imperial city frighten you like this? This doesn't seem to tally with the reputation of the valiant general of our Light Wind Empire." Lian Fu sneered as he gestured toward Xiao Meng while pinching his thumb and index finger together.

"Who're you trying to deceive? There are countless stores like this within the imperial city. You can tell the cultivation level of the owner in a single glance. He's just a mere Battle-Maniac, what's there for you to be afraid of? Is there a need for a Battle-Saint like you to hesitate?" Lian Fu thought.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked toward Xiao Meng and that... eunuch.

"Eh... Eunuch?" Bu Fang thought as he blinked. It was the first time that he had seen a live eunuch. "How amazing."

"You can enter the store, but fighting and causing trouble is prohibited. Otherwise, you will know the consequences," Bu Fang simply said.

Xiao Meng knitted his eyebrows together. If he was not allowed to make a move, how could he capture Xiao Yue? Even though Xiao Yue was badly injured, it would still be difficult to arrest him if he tried to resist.

"Oh my! Just because we're showing respect to you, you really think that you're something... A mere Battle-Maniac that as arrogant as an eighth grade War-God. Oh, I am so scared."

Before Xiao Meng could reply, Lian Fu scornfully said as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and gestured toward Bu Fang while his other hand was propped under his chin.

Bu Fang instantly felt goosebumps all over his body... He thought, "Good heavens... Elder brother, isn't it better for us to talk it out?"

Shua shua shua!

While they were talking, several figures appeared within the alleyway.

Ouyang Zongheng valiantly arrived with an unmatched domineering aura while his ferocious face was trembling with fury. At the execution platform, he fought against multiple opponents and swept away multiple sixth grade Battle-Emperors while killing numerous fifth grade Battle-Kings. He truly was akin to a human-shaped wild beast!

"God damn! Tell me, who's left!" Ouyang Zongheng said as he stroked his beard. He truly was ferocious!

"Good heavens! My obedient daughter, what are you doing inside? It's dangerous there, so quickly come out!" When Ouyang

Zongheng noticed that Ouyang Xiaoyi was inside the store, his heart immediately started quivering. There were two ruthless people inside, if anything happened to her... He would definitely get it from her mother!

"Dad!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up when she saw Ouyang Zongheng and charmingly yelled out.

"Oh, my obedient daughter," Ouyang Zongheng replied with a face filled with love, no longer resembling the wild beast that was there a few moments ago.

The big pile of soldiers standing behind Ouyang Zongheng were dumbfounded as they looked at their general... What happened to the dignity of their general?

The corner of Xiao Yue's mouth curled into a smile. Indeed... Xiao Meng did not dare to directly charge into the store and was afraid of the mysterious store as well.

He made the right choice!

Hun Qianduan looked at Bu Fang as if he had seen a ghost. The ant-like owner of a store... actually caused the number one expert of the Light Wind Empire to hesitate? What exactly happened to the world?

Like the eunuch, Lian Fu, Hun Qianduan could not understand the situation.

"General Xiao, hurry up and capture the fiends from the sects hiding inside the store!" Lian Fu coldly said.

"No way!"

"No way!!"

Ouyang Zongheng and Xiao Meng replied in unison. Xiao Meng was afraid, while Ouyang Zongheng was purely worried about Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Xiaoyi, come over here to dad. Be obedient," After shouting, Ouyang Zongheng sweetly said toward Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Ouyang Xiaoyi glanced at the smelly boss and looked toward her boorish father. She was slightly hesitating as she blinked her adorable eyes.

"You should go over there," Bu Fang simply said as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

"Alright! Smelly boss, you should be careful," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she stood on tiptoes and patted Bu Fang's shoulder.

After she finished, she eagerly ran toward Ouyang Zongheng's side.

"God damn! Someone! Go in there and arrest those fiends from the sects!" Once Ouyang Xiaoyi was at his side, Ouyang Zongheng's tenderness immediately turn into malevolence as he put his hands at his waist and angrily ordered while pointing at the store.

Xiao Meng's expression immediately changed.

Lian Fu faintly smiled as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together.

After receiving the order, five of Ouyang Zongheng's Battle-King subordinates yelled a battle cry as they charged toward the store. Their objective was to capture Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan!

Xiao Yue's face was pale, but he had a smile on his face as he looked at the five people approaching.

A gigantic figure suddenly appeared at the entrance and its mechanical eyes flashed.

The five Battle-Kings were immediately startled. They subconsciously evoked their true energy and aimed for the mechanical puppet blocking their way.

With a loud noise, the five Battle-Kings flew backward and crashed into the ground, rolling a few times before they came to a stop.

"I already said. You can enter the store, but don't cause any trouble..." Bu Fang folded his arms across his chest and expressionlessly said, "Do you think my words are nonsense?"

At that moment, the people gathered outside the store sucked in a breath of cold air as they thought, "To be able to defeat five Battle-Kings in a single move, what the hell is that puppet?! This brat... What kind of background does he have?!"

Hun Qianduan's expression was frozen as well, while Xiao Yue was smiling.

Suddenly, Bu Fang turned his head. He looked toward Xiao Yue and indifferently said, "I hate being used by others, so don't smile... If I feel like it, I might just throw you out."

The expression on Xiao Yue's face immediately froze...

Chapter 57: The Blacky That Knows Human Speech

The smile on Xiao Yue's face froze, then slowly disappeared. He meaningfully looked at Bu Fang and could feel from Bu Fang's indifferent gaze that he was not joking.

After Bu Fang indifferently glanced at Xiao Yue, he turned back and looked toward the dumbfounded crowd gathered outside the store.

Hun Qianduan suppressed the shock within his mind and looked toward Xiao Yue, whose expression was gradually turning sullen. He could not help but narrow his eyes and feel an inexplicable joy from watching the Heart-rending Sword Monarch Xiao Yue admit defeat in front of someone else.

"I will admit... I made an error in judgement, but do you really think that this puppet alone would be able to block both Xiao Meng and Eunuch Lian?" Hun Qianduan twitched his mouth and said after calming down. Xiao Meng and Lian Fu were the two strongest people within the imperial city. How could a mere puppet block the both of them?

"Do you really think that I would stay within this store for the rest of my life?" Xiao Yue said as he coldly glanced toward Hun Qianduan and the corner of his mouth curled up.

Hun Qianduan's pupils constricted. As expected of Xiao Yue, he probably already thought of a way to retreat. If the Soul Sect

disciple had not spoiled their plans, then the plan might really had perfectly gone the way Xiao Yue had plotted.

.....

"So, you have some tricks up your sleeve after all. No wonder you were able to cause General Xiao to hesitate," Lian Fu sneered as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together. His eyes were curiously sizing up Whitey. "This puppet is indeed quite powerful to be able to actually defeat five Battle-Kings within one move."

Ouyang Zongheng was staring at Whitey as well. He did not think that the things that Xiaoyi said were real. This puppet really was tough and was even much tougher than him.

Ouyang Xiaoyi tugged on Ouyang Zongheng's armor and charmingly said, "Dad, let's not fight with Whitey. Even though the smelly boss is old-fashioned, he's still not bad."

"Oh, my obedient daughter. I'll listen to you," Ouyang Zongheng narrowed his eyes and was all smiles as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

"As if I would go and fight that puppet... Even five Battle-Kings were defeated by a single move. I am only a sixth grade Battle-Emperor. Even if I went up there, I would only be easily defeated as well. I better leave the puppet to Old Xiao and that damn eunuch. I'd only disgrace myself if I tried."

While having such thoughts, the pamperedness on Ouyang Zongheng's face increased even more as he said, "If that's what my daughter wants, then I won't participate."

"Owner Bu, do you really intend to shelter those criminals from the sects?" Xiao Meng solemnly said in a low voice. If Bu Fang really insisted on sheltering Xiao Yue, then he could only forcibly barge in.

"I am not sheltering them. You can come in as well, but fighting is prohibited within the store," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

"Oh my, don't think that you're invincible just because of that puppet! I really want to see what other tricks you have other than this puppet!" Lian Fu's high-pitched voice echoed around the alleyway as true energy surged out from his body.

"General Xiao, obstruct that puppet while I capture those fiends from the sects!"

With his thumb and middle finger pinched together, the horsetail whisk extended toward his enemies.

With unfathomable movement and extremely fast speed, Lian Fu preemptively made a move as he swung his horsetail whisk toward Whitey. The innumerable hair of the horsetail whisk suddenly shot out and became as hard as steel needles under the influence of true energy.

Xiao Meng's expression changed. With no other choice, he could only make a move. His armor collided with a long crash and emitted a sonorous sound.

While Xiao Meng obstructed Whitey, Lian Fu's attack managed to dodge Whitey's interception. His targets were Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan, who were hiding within the store.

The expression on the faces of both Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan immediately changed. The worst situation had indeed occurred. Even though Whitey was powerful, it was only a Battle-Saint level puppet. With Xiao Meng obstructing it, the other Battle-Saint, Eunuch Lian, would be free to deal with them.

Bu Fang folded his arms across his chest as he indifferently looked toward the rapidly approaching Eunuch Lian. He seemed unconcerned and stood there without doing anything.

Xiao Yue's heart sank. He could not just give up now. He struggled with great difficulty to reach his current level, how could he just let Eunuch Lian catch him! Once he was caught by the imperial court, he would be dead without a doubt.

Hun Qianduan's eyes were filled with despair as well. He was already severely injured, how could he face Eunuch Lian who was in a perfect condition?

Was he really going to die there? He could not accept it!

Lian Fu's horsetail whisk had become as sharp as a knife as it propelled toward Xiao Yue. The terrifyingly sharp true energy stirred up the surroundings and seemingly intended to tear everything apart.

"I can't die like this! I can't die!" Xiao Yue's eyes suddenly turned bloodshot as his handsome face contorted together.

He lastly looked toward Bu Fang, but Bu Fang remained unconcerned.

Damn it!

"Like I thought, I need to rely on myself for everything!" Xiao Yue thought as he loudly cried out. As he opened his mouth, there seemed to be a bright light blooming within his throat.

A boundless sword energy abruptly rose up within the store. The terrifying will of the sword seemed to desire to cut space and penetrate the entire store.

Boom!

The collision between the life-seizing true energy hidden within Xiao Yue's mouth and Eunuch Lian's attack immediately created an astonishing shockwave.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he felt that a barrier suddenly appeared outside of his body and blocked the torrent of

energy.

A burst of powerful wind blew away the smoke and dust drifting within the store and revealed the scene within.

Taking into account the power of the shockwave between the two, the store would definitely be destroyed. After all, it was a collision between the desperate blow of a Battle-Emperor and the all-out attack of a Battle-Saint. The outcome would be enough to completely level everything within a ten miles radius.

The people gathered outside the store swallowed their saliva as they looked at the situation within the store in disbelief.

The store was standing there in perfect condition and the collapse and ruin that they imagined did not appear.

It was as if the shockwave of their attacks was a breeze blowing.

"Hmm?! What's going on?" Lian Fu thought.

When Eunuch Lian looked around, his pupils constricted. When he discovered that there was not even a trace of destruction in his surroundings, even his eyelids quivered.

Xiao Yue's entire body was dyed with blood and was practically red from head to toe. He was bitterly laughing but the light in his eyes became brighter and brighter.

"I already said... Creating trouble within the store is prohibited. Did you not understand?" He expressionlessly said as he looked toward Xiao Yue and Lian Fu. The barrier had disappeared and revealed Bu Fang's immaculate figure.

Xiao Meng's knocked back Whitey with a punch and took a step back. Looking at the situation within the store, a trace of unease suddenly emerged in his heart.

The source of unease... Xiao Meng's heart skipped a beat when he turned his head and looked toward the big black dog that was always lying at the corner.

At that moment... The big black dog actually stood up!

"Hmm? Blacky actually stood up?" Bu Fang looked toward Blacky as if he had just discovered a new continent. That lazy dog... actually moved!

Striding elegantly like a cat, Blacky arrived at Eunuch Lian's feet.

Its doggy eyes slightly lifted up as it lazily glanced at the eunuch. Lian Fu was slightly startled as he thought, "Where did this black dog... appear from?"

"Shoo... Go somewhere else to play! Don't get too close to me!" Lian Fu disdainfully covered his nose and continuously waved his hand to drive Blacky away. He hated dogs the most!

Blacky rolled its eyes and thought, "This lord dog also hates eunuchs the most!"

After scornfully glancing at the eunuch, Black strode like a cat to Bu Fang's side.

"He said not to create trouble within the store... Did you not understand?"

Blacky turned its head and looked toward Xiao Yue and Lian Fu. As it opens its mouth, it actually started speaking like a human.

Bu Fang went into a daze then jumped up like he had just seen a ghost as he stared at Blacky.

"Good heavens... This lazy dog actually knows human speech?"

Blacky glanced at Bu Fang and could not be bothered to reply to him. It turned its head back to the three of them and the indifferent, masculine voice rang out once more, "I'll borrow a sentence from that lump of iron... Troublemakers will be stripped as an example to others."

Lian Fu, Xiao Yue, and Hun Qianduan all went into a daze...

Then right in front of their eyes, that tame and lazy dog suddenly opened its mouth. That mouth became larger and larger and

finally seemed to have turned into the mouth of a wild beast.

"Bark!"

A bark that was like the furious roar of an ancient ominous beast sounded out as an overwhelming hurricane gushed out from the doggy mouth.

Chapter 58: Your Majesty... You Must Seek Justice For Your Humble Servant

Ouyang Zongheng narrowed his eyes as he stretched his neck in an attempt to clearly observe the situation within the store.

"As long as that damn eunuch, Lian Fu, participates, victory should be guaranteed. After all, even though that damn eunuch looks like a transvestite, his cultivation level is indeed strong.

"As a seventh grade Battle-Saint, even though he's weaker than Old Xiao by just a little and stronger than me by just a bit, capturing the heavily injured Xiao Yue should still be effortless for him," Ouyang Zongheng thought as he cringed his nose and twitched his mouth.

The other soldiers behind him were also curiously trying to peek into the store. If they could capture Xiao Yue, it would be a big event that would shock the entire empire! They did not want to miss such a chance to witness this historic moment.

Xiao Meng's eyebrows were knitted together when his expression abruptly changed. True energy instantly gushed out from his entire body and enveloped the surface of his armor.

From within the store, a burst of violent wind suddenly gushed out. It was like a rampaging dragon as an intimidating aura surged out and spread with a loud rumble.

Ouyang Zongheng, who was stretching his neck out, suddenly froze as his eyes widened and he angrily cursed, "God damn!"

He turned around and hugged Ouyang Xiaoyi. Boom! The violent wind was like a spiraling dragon as it directly smashed on his back and sent him flying.

Fortunately, even though this violent wind was fierce and was also mixed with bad breath... Ouyang Zongheng did not embarrass himself too much due to his huge body and the fact the force of the wind had weakened.

After all, Ouyang Zongheng was a peak-level Battle-Emperor.

With a somersault, he landed onto the ground in an elegant manner. Ouyang Zongheng patted the head of Ouyang Xiaoyi and laughed as he said, "My obedient daughter, isn't daddy awesome?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi speechlessly rolled her eyes and snorted.

Xiu xiu xu!

A loud and clear bark of a dog that sounded like the roar of an ancient ominous beast rang out, and was followed by the whistling sound of a hurricane.

Three figures flew out from the store while whirling in the air, accompanied by blood-curdling screams and cries of fear.

Even though Xiao Meng's hair was fluttering in the wind, his body was firmly planted to the ground and unaffected by the violent wind. He was swift as the wind as he reached out his hand and grabbed one of the figures.

"Hmm?" Xiao Meng was startled as he thought, "What's with this smooth feeling in my hands?"

"Oh my! How annoying, General Xiao! Let me down!" A high-pitched voice filled with resentment and a little shyness rang out.

Xiao Meng expressionlessly looked at the person in his hands, who was wearing nothing but an underwear... the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu.

"Cough... Your skin isn't bad," Xiao Meng calmly said as he lightly coughed and lay down Lian Fu.

Lian Fu resentfully rolled his eyes at Xiao Meng. When he looked toward the store, his eyes were filled with shame and anger. That dog... was definitely not a normal breed of dog!

Boom boom!!

Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan ruthlessly slammed into the wall and fell onto the ground. Both of their clothes were torn into pieces in the violent wind and revealed their naked bodies with only a loincloth left on their bodies.

"Xiao Yue!" Xiao Meng instantly noticed Xiao Yue who was thrown out and an overwhelming killing intent immediately burst forth from his eyes. As he ferociously stomped the ground, the tiles underneath him collapsed and broke into pieces, and he charged toward Xiao Yue with a single step.

Xiao Yue was bleeding all over his body as he unsteadily stood up from the ground. There was a strange smile on his face.

"Xiao Meng... You can't keep me here. You couldn't do it yesterday, you won't be able to do it today as well!"

As he finished speaking, a few sword cries that sounded like dragons came from above as four figures suddenly descended and landed in front of Xiao Yue.

As the four figures and three swords suspended in the air appeared, a powerful and intimidating aura suddenly exploded.

"Void Sword Pavilion! Nine Stars Temple!"

Xiao Meng's pupils constricted but his movements did not stop. His fist flew out with an unmatched might and the true energy was practically tearing up the air.

The three swordsmen waved their fingers like swords and the three flying swords immediately formed a sword formation to block the attack.

The remaining taoist priest formed several hand seals as he gathered true energy into his hand and threw his fist toward Xiao Meng as well. The three of them collided in the air and created an astonishing shockwave.

Chi chi!

Each of the four men blocking in front of Xiao Yue spat out a mouthful of blood as they took a step back. They grabbed hold of Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan, and escaped by flying away.

Xiao Meng's figure trembled and his entire body convulsed before he was able to dissipate the energy that was twined around his body. However, within that short period of time, Xiao Yue was already taken away.

"Damn it... I knew Xiao Yue had a backup plan!" Xiao Meng was unable to accept it as he silently cursed. He smashed his fist into the wall out of frustration and innumerable cracks immediately appeared.

"It's all because of this big black dog! Xiao Yue was already surrounded by us... and his capture was nigh! Why did you blow him out!" Lian Fu was exasperated as he turned around and gestured toward the interior of the store with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Are you pointing at me with your fingers?" A dog strode out of the store like a cat and stood at the entrance as it arrogantly looked

toward Lian Fu.

"I am talking about you! Don't think that I would be afraid of you just because your surprise attack succeeded!" Lian Fu said as he rocked and swunged his slim waist.

Blacky's doggy mouth slightly widened into a meaningful smile...

Then, Lian Fu felt a surge of intimidating aura poured down from above the nine heavens and instantly pressed down on him. It was like he was being pressed down by a majestic mountain as he lay on his stomach and could not move.

Lian Fu went into a daze as his white hair dangled in front of him and completely covered his face... How embarrassing.

Xiao Meng's pupils constricted as he thought, "This intimidating aura... This big black dog is actually... a ninth grade supreme beast!"

"Owner Bu... This time, it's our fault for offending you. Could you let this... lord dog back off?" Xiao Meng said toward the store as he executed a fist and palm salute.

Bu Fang walked out from the store. His lean figure and tied up long hair made him appear neat and tidy.

"This lazy dog, Blacky, has a bad temper... I will take this time as a lesson to the eunuch. Remember, next time when you're here...

Make sure to follow the rules," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

After he finished speaking, Bu Fang stroked Blacky's smooth and immaculate fur, and indifferently said, "Stop fooling around and release that eunuch."

Blacky turned its head and said, "What if I said no?"

"Then I'll wake up later tomorrow and skip cooking practice..." Bu Fang remained expressionless as he seriously said.

"Alright, I'll let him go." Blacky snorted as it rolled his eyes at Bu Fang. It strode like a cat toward the corner of the wall and went to sleep at a comfortable spot.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth slightly widened as he thought, "So, the final line of defence mentioned by the system was this freeloading dog. No wonder... With the system's miserly personality, there's no way that the system would be raising a big black dog that was ready to evolve into a pig."

"Oh, my waist!" When Lian Fu felt that the intimidating aura pressing down on him had disappeared, he hurriedly got up from the ground and fearfully looked toward Blacky. He did not dare to say anything else and ran away with his tail between his legs while only wearing a loincloth.

"Blacky is awesome!" Ouyang Xiaoyi happily clapped her hands as her eyes narrowed into a crescent shape. "He's so much stronger

than dad."

General Ouyang Zongheng felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest... In the eyes of his obedient daughter, he was already incomparable to a dog.

"Thank you, Owner Bu," Xiao Meng solemnly thanked Bu Fang. Then he meaningfully looked toward Blacky who was soundly asleep and left.

Xiao Meng needed to report to the emperor that the plan to capture Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan had failed.

Immediately, the experts within the alleyway quickly disappeared like a receding tide. Ouyang Xiaoyi was taken away by Ouyang Zongheng as well. While she was leaving, she even happily waved toward Bu Fang.

Once everyone had left, Bu Fang glanced toward Blacky, who was soundly asleep. He then entered the store and closed up the entrance.

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"Your Majesty, you must seek justice for me! That unscrupulous store is really impudent and has no respect for the law! They actually dare to shelter criminals from the sects! When I tried to intervene... They even tore off my clothes!" Lian Fu grievously complained to Ji Changfeng, who was sitting on the imperial

throne. His entire face was filled with tears.

The emperor only chuckled as he placated Lian Fu. His gaze shifted toward Xiao Meng who was standing upright within the large hall.

"General Xiao... Is the store really as magical as you said? There's a ninth grade supreme beast guarding the place?"

"Your humble servant's words are all true," Xiao Meng solemnly said.

The emperor's eyes narrowed as he stroked his white beard and faintly smiled. "I heard that the dishes within the store are delicious... That there's even a rumor of a wine that's better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?"

"I... am really quite curious."

Chapter 59: His Majesty Ordered Takeout

A period of coldness follows after an autumn rain, and winter follows after ten autumn rains.

After a few periods of autumn rain, the temperature within the imperial city was gradually decreasing. The autumn wind was beginning to change into a bone-chilling cold wind. Bu Fang woke up early in the morning. It was so cold that he did not want to leave his bed.

After washing up, Bu Fang wrapped himself in a thick coat and opened up the store. As the cold wind blew into the store, he felt a chill along his back as the cold air burrowed down his neck.

Bu Fang rubbed his hands together and lightly sucked in a breath of cold air.

Glancing at Blacky who was lying on the ground, Bu Fang pursed his lips and thought, "This lazy dog... It only knows how to sleep all day. Why doesn't it have the sort of awareness a supreme beast should have? Shouldn't it be standing in a majestic manner at the entrance to improve the classiness of the store?"

"Brat, this lord dog wants to eat Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs," Blacky opened its eyes and lazily said to Bu Fang. Its voice was not considered old, but was masculine and filled with magnetism instead.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows. "You lazy dog, you've only been

freeloading here and now, you're even ordering dishes?"

Blacky rolled his eyes and ignored Bu Fang. It buried its head in its paws and went back to sleep. Its meaning was obvious, whether he cooked the dish was up to him.

Bu Fang was furious... How dare the lazy dog ignore him! Was it not afraid that he would add a large spoonful of Abyssal Chilli Sauce into the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs? It would make that lazy dog wish for death.

Bu Fang turned around and returned to the kitchen. Even though he said he did not want to cook the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, Blacky helped out yesterday after all. So, Bu Fang reluctantly decided to agree to its request for once.

He took out some of the main ingredients needed to cook the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs from the freezer: the prime ribs of the Flying Cloud Boar, some starch, and the sauce used for seasoning.

Bu Fang placed the prime ribs onto the chopping board. As he waved his hand, a kitchen knife glimmering with sharpness began to twirl in his hand. After twirling the knife in his hands a few times, Bu Fang rapidly smacked the prime ribs with the back of the kitchen knife.

The meat was easier to chop once he loosened the meat by smacking it. After practicing the Meteor Knife Technique for so many days, Bu Fang's skills had improved by quite a margin. As the kitchen knife firmly chopped into the prime ribs, only an

afterimage could be seen.

When Bu Fang first tried cooking the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, he felt that chopping the meat was extremely tiring. However, as his knife skill improved, it was much easier to chop it.

Once he chopped the prime ribs, that were filled with spirit energy, into pieces, he placed them into the starch paste that had just been prepared and ensured that each piece was coated.

Filling half of the wok with oil, he waited until the hot air rising up was hot enough to scald his hand and placed each piece of meat into the wok.

Pssst!

As the pieces of meat rolled within the oil, a fragrance was drifting out.

Once all of the pieces of meat were deep fried, Bu Fang placed them into a large bowl. The tangerine sweet and sour sauce was mixed together with the meat and finally placed onto a plate.

"Blacky, it's time to eat," Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen with the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and lightly called out.

Blacky's half-opened eyes immediately lit up as its doggy nose sniffed the air. Its tongue was hanging out of its mouth as it eagerly looked at the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in Bu Fang's

hands.

As he placed the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky, it began to gobble down the food in the plate while wagging its tail.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he stroked Black's smooth and immaculate fur. He stood up and pulled a chair toward the entrance. As he sat down, he began to leisurely bask himself in the sun.

Even though a large battle between the top experts of the imperial city happened yesterday within the store, there was not much of a change to Bu Fang's daily life.

The rays of the late autumn sun were even warmer and more comfortable and his clothing was exuding an intoxicating light fragrance under the sun's rays.

What a wonderful day.

From a distance, Fatty Jin and his buddies were majestically approaching. Fatty Jin who was leading the group was limping and his pudgy face was even slightly swollen.

"Good morning, Owner Bu. You're sunbathing? What a leisure mood you're in," Fatty Jin greeted Bu Fang.

Bu Fang nodded and puzzledly stared at him as he said, "Why's your face swollen? [You're already very fat, there's no need to make](#)

[it swell up even more.](#)"

To beat up one's own face to pretend to be fat (打肿脸充胖子) - When someone does something beyond their own abilities to impress others.

"Owner Bu... Can't we have a proper chat? Isn't this all because of you?" The moment the wounds on his face were mentioned, Fatty Jin's eyes were filled with resentment.

"Your Oyster Buns were too fragrant..." He recounted everything that had happened at the execution grounds to Bu Fang, causing the latter to be slightly stunned...

So, the debut of the Oyster Bun created such a stir.

"You did such an inhumane act, why didn't he just beat you to death..." Bu Fang simply said as he stood up and stretched his body. Then he walked toward the kitchen.

Fatty Jin did not know whether to laugh or cry. He did not expect Owner Bu to mock him. "Owner Bu, I'll have the same as usual."

Bu Fang waved his hand to indicate that he heard. After a while, a rich fragrance drifted out from the kitchen.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was skipping as she arrived. Her mood that day was pretty good.

"Oh my, Fatty Jin. What are you trying to pretend to be by making your face swell up like that?[1]" The first thing Ouyang Xiaoyi noticed when she entered the store was Fatty Jin's wretched appearance and she immediately laughed out loud.

Fatty Jin could only bitterly smile. Under Ouyang Xiaoyi's constant pestering, he recounted the story about the Oyster Bun once more.

"Is the Oyster Bun really that delicious? Then, I'll have to make the smelly boss make a serving for me. I'll bring it back to let mom, dad and grandpa have a taste," Ouyang Xiaoyi thought.

"Xiao Yi, serve the dish," Bu Fang lightly shouted. He knew that Xiaoyi had arrived when he heard her laughter coming from the dining area.

"Oh!" Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly ran toward the kitchen window and served the dishes to Fatty Jin and his buddies.

Fatty Jin and his buddies satisfactorily finished their food and left after paying their bills. Naturally, each of them was carrying Oyster Buns when they left.

Ji Chengxue was wearing a white robe as he elegantly arrived. He was practically a regular customer of the store and a gentle smile could often be seen on his face

"Your Highness big brother, what do you want to eat?" Ouyang

Xiaoyi asked.

"I'll have a serving of Lees Fish and a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine." Ji Chengxue chuckled.

After a while, the dishes were served. Ji Chengxue contentedly poured and drank the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine by himself as he ate the Lees Fish.

At the entrance of the alleyway, a slim figure with white hair was approaching while swaying his hips.

"My gosh, I almost got a heart attack. Why is this dog still staying here! You're still a supreme beast after all, could you at least display the domineering aura of a supreme beast?"

Lian Fu had fair and clear skin and was wearing casual clothes with his white hair rolled up and bound by a bronze headdress. When he saw Blacky, his heart quivered as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and said.

Blacky could not be bothered to care about the damn eunuch. It was slowly gnawing on the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs with a contented expression as a fragrance drifted everywhere.

"Hmm, it's... quite fragrant," Lian Fu muttered as he gestured while pinching his thumb and middle finger together.

Blacky's body froze as it alertly glanced at the damn eunuch.

Then, it shifted its body so that its buttocks was facing Lian Fu before it continued to gnaw on its Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

Who would want that! Lian was exasperated. As if he, the Chief Eunuch, would fight over dog food.

Hmph! Lian Fu proudly snorted as he stepped into Bu Fang's store while swaying his hips. He was not there to create trouble or to capture anyone. He was purely there to buy food.

His Majesty had given him an imperial edict the day before to bring back all the dishes in the store to let him have a taste. If the taste was alright, he would even entice Bu Fang into joining the imperial palace.

"He's just a little chef from a store within an alleyway. Are his skills really comparable to the imperial chefs?" However, Lian Fu was not particularly keen about his mission that day.

"Oh my, Your Highness! Why are you here? Oh my, isn't this our General Ouyang's young lady?" The moment he stepped into the store, Lian Fu's eyes immediately lit up when he saw Ji Chengxue who was eating and drinking, and the adorable Ouyang Xiaoyi who was nearby.

"Hmm? Lian gong gong, why... are you here today?" Ji Chengxue was slightly surprised. Lian Fu was his father's personal eunuch. It was truly strange that he would appear within the store...

"There's something Your Highness is unaware. His Majesty ordered me to bring back all of the dishes to the palace. Isn't that why I am here? I can't disobey my orders."

"Hmm... Eh? Takeout?" Ji Chengxue nodded but soon his expression became strange as he looked toward Lian Fu.

Chapter 60: Xiaoyi, Serve The Dish

"Are you really here to order takeout?" Ji Chengxue's expression was strange as he looked toward Lian Fu. There was a trace of humor in his eyes.

"That's right, His Majesty said he wanted to eat the food from this place. That's why I hurried over here, although I personally don't think there would be any delicious dishes in this store. Don't tell me that it would be better than the food from the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and the imperial kitchen?" Lian Fu unconcernedly said as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and played with the bangs hanging in front of his forehead.

At that moment, Ji Chengxue had already finished his food. He calmly stood up and solemnly said to Lian Fu, "No, gong gong, what you're saying is incorrect. Owner Bu's culinary skills is definitely the best. His culinary skills deserve his asking price."

Lian Fu was slightly startled as he thought, "To think that the third prince would think so highly of this store. It looks like this store might have some capabilities after all."

"I hope that's the case. By the way, didn't His Majesty appoint Your Highness in the military campaign against the sects? When is Your Highness going to set off?" Lian Fu suddenly seemed to remember something as he asked Ji Chengxue.

"There's still a few more days," Ji Chengxue seemed to be

uninterested in the question as he lightly sighed and stopped the conversation. After paying the bill, he was carrying a serving of Oyster Buns as takeout while leaving the store.

"Gong gong, what do you want to eat?" Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly asked Lian Fu.

Lian Fu walked toward a seat while swaying his hips and sat down. He crossed his leg over the other and asked with a smile, "What's... delicious here?"

"Gonggong, look behind you. The menu is on the wall," Ouyang Xiao pointed to the wall behind Lian Fu and seriously said.

Lian Fu was slightly surprised for a moment. When he turned his head, he immediately saw the menu and the astronomical price of the dishes.

"Oh my! As expected of the rumored black-hearted store that is known throughout the imperial city. A plate of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals, it's even faster than snatching money." Lian Fu raised his eyebrows and there was a trace of ridicule in his high-pitched voice.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen and wiped off the water droplets on his hands. He expressionlessly glanced toward Lian Fu.

"The price is clearly indicated and our customers are treated fairly. It's up to you whether you want to eat or not," Bu Fang

simply said.

"Heh! You're really bad tempered even though you're not strong at all. Do you really think I am bothered by the price? I have nothing but money! I've more than enough money to buy ten of your stores!" Lian Fu snorted and said.

"No, your money can't purchase the store," Bu Fang seriously replied.

"I don't want to argue with a country bumpkin like you. Do you know how much assets I have? It's enough to crush you to death if I stacked them into gold coins!" Lian Fu pinched his thumb and middle finger, and played with his fingernails as he scornfully glanced at Bu Fang.

"I don't want to say any more, just serve the dishes first. I want to try out each dish. If I find them delicious, pack a serving of each dish for me."

"Our store doesn't provide takeout service. There's only one dish that permits takeout," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

Lian Fu was slightly stunned as he carefully observed Bu Fang. When he discovered the solemn expression on Bu Fang's face and realized he was not bluffing, he was immediately furious.

"If I am telling you to pack the food, you should just pack the food. What's with all this nonsense?" Lian Fu uncrossed his legs.

He pointed toward Bu Fang with one hand while placing the other hand on his waist as he snorted and said.

"Hmm? Are you trying to cause trouble?" Bu Fang frowned and simply said.

Lian Fu's body immediately froze as he sneaked a peek at Blacky, who was lying at the entrance and still gnawing on the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, from the corner of his eye. When he recalled the terrifying moment when that black dog blew away his clothes with a single breath, his entire body shuddered.

"I am not trying to cause trouble. Just serve the dishes and let me have a taste first." Lian Fu twitched his mouth and finally yielded.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Didn't I already said it? I'll have all the dishes," Lian Fu impatiently replied.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at him and asked, "Are you sure?"

When Lian Fu did not reply any further, Bu Fang nodded and returned to the kitchen.

After a while, the rich fragrance of the Egg-Fried Rice drifted out into the dining area.

"The first dish, Ordinary Egg-Fried Rice. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's indifferent voice rang out from the kitchen.

Xiaoyi eagerly ran toward the window and brought the overwhelmingly fragrant Egg-Fried Rice to Lian Fu. She placed the plate of Egg-Fried Rice onto the table and charmingly said, "Here's your Egg-Fried Rice. Please enjoy your meal."

Lian Fu nodded. As his gaze shifted toward the Egg-Fried Rice, his eyes immediately lit up and found the sight in front of him slightly incredible. The plate of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him seemed to be slightly giving off light.

Using a porcelain spoon to scoop up a spoonful of rice, the golden egg fluid left a string-like trail as he lifted it up. An even richer fragrance surged out from within the Egg-Fried Rice and assaulted Lian Fu's nasal cavities. He could not help but take a deep breath.

"How fragrant! Looks like he has some skills after all," Lian Fu muttered. As he shoved the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth, the delicious taste immediately burst forth. The supple and smooth egg fluid instantly solidified inside his mouth and became filled with elasticity as it smacked his taste buds. He was completely captivated by the food.

"De... Delicious!" After eating a mouthful, Lian Fu could not stop any longer. He continued to shove spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth.

When Ouyang Xiao saw Lian Fu's appearance, she covered her mouth and laughed as she said, "Gong gong, take your time. No one is going to snatch your food, there's still more dishes later."

"Hmm... De... Delicious!" Lian Fu continuously nodded his head as he replied. A grain of golden rice fell out and landed onto the table. Lian Fu's eyes immediately widened as he hurriedly picked the rice grain up and shoved it into his mouth.

"The second dish, Improved Egg-Fried Rice. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out once more. Another dish was completed once again.

When Lian Fu took a bite of the Improved Egg-Fried Rice, his expression changed. He could not believe the dense amount of spirit energy circulating within the Egg-Fried Rice. It was practically more effective than eating an elixir!

"The third dish, Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables."

"The fourth dish, Fish Head Tofu Soup. Xiaoyi, serve the dish."

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"The eighth dish, Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out once more and Ouyang Xiaoyi cheerfully ran over to pick up the dish.

"Burp! Why is there still more dishes... How fragrant... Burp!"

Lian Fu's stomach was filled to the point of bursting but his mouth could not stop at all. He had just swallowed the overwhelmingly fragrant Golden Shumai when the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that was exuding a rich aroma was served.

The tangerine color of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was extremely appetizing. Even though Lian Fu had already eaten a lot of dishes, he could not help but reach out his chopsticks when he smelled the aroma.

As a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs entered his mouth, the intoxicating taste of the sauce spread within it and instantly captivated Lian Fu within the rich taste of the meat.

"Hmm, it's so delicious!" Lian Fu uncontrollably muttered as he gestured with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Gonggong, do you still feel that the smelly boss' dishes are incomparable to the food from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" Ouyang Xiaoyi calmly asked as she proudly looked at the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu, who was completely captivated by the delicious food.

Lian Fu had just finished the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and was using a handkerchief to lightly dab his lips while occasionally burping.

"I'll admit... Burp! The food here indeed tastes delicious and deserves the price. In addition, these dishes contain a dense amount of spirit energy that would help in cultivating. The price is considered fair as well," Lian Fu nodded and said as he smacked his

lips.

"It's really good. I didn't expect a little chef like you would actually have such culinary skills. It's my oversight." Lian Fu gave a heartfelt praise as he glanced at Bu Fang, who had just walked out of the kitchen, with awe.

Naturally, Bu Fang would gladly accept when someone praised his culinary skills. He nodded as a form of acknowledgement.

"Very well, little chef, pack a serving of each dish for me," Lian Fu said as he rubbed the jade pendant hanging at his waist with his palm. Suddenly, a lot of crystals appeared.

"The rules of the store only permit each customer to order each dish only once and takeouts are not available. Oh, there's one dish that is permitted for takeouts... the Oyster Bun."

Bu Fang looked toward the crystals on the table and expressionlessly said.

Chapter 61: If You Eat Too Many Oyster Buns... You Will Accumulate Internal Heat

"Do you know who I am ordering takeout for?" Lian Fu did not expect Bu Fang would reject his request once more and was slightly furious.

"Do you know that His Majesty wishes to savor your dishes? This is your greatest honor!"

Bu Fang was frowning as he looked toward the haughty Lian Fu in displeasure. He had already clearly stated that the store did not provide takeout service. Why was the eunuch unable to understand?

"Tell me, how much money do I need to pay before I can order takeout? Just say the price," Lian Fu snorted and said, while pinching his thumb and middle finger together. He was exasperated by Bu Fang's unwavering attitude as well.

"Do you still not understand what I am saying?" Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at him. He did not feel like paying any further attention to the eunuch anymore. He returned to the kitchen and came back with the last dish.

The golden Oyster Buns were wrapped in large bamboo leaves that concealed its aroma.

"This is the last dish, the Oyster Bun. This is permitted for

takeout. You can bring this back and let the emperor eat this," Bu Fang passed the Oyster Bun to Lian Fu and simply said.

Lian Fu went into a daze as he subconsciously received the Oyster Buns. He glanced at the Oyster Bun wrapped in bamboo leaves. Even though the smell was fragrant... compared to the sumptuous Fish Head Tofu Soup, the Oyster Bun seemed a little shabby.

He ate so many delicious dishes and only brought a serving of this shabby Oyster Bun back... Would His Majesty scold him when he returned?

"Little chef... can't you make an exception for me? Not even if I fork out a hundred crystals?" Lian Fu bit his lips as he resentfully looked at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang's entire body shuddered. Lian Fu's gaze was causing goosebumps to appear all over his body. Bu Fang ducked his head and turned around. He immediately returned to the kitchen and completely ignored the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu.

Lian Fu watched as Bu Fang left. He sighed as he gloomily looked at the Oyster Bun in his hands. Finally, he could only grudgingly leave.

After seeing off Lian Fu, Ouyang Xiaoyi excitedly ran toward Bu Fang.

"Smelly boss, give me a serving of Oyster Bun!" Ouyang Xiaoyi

charmingly shouted.

"Hmm? Are you going to eat it now?" Bu Fang was startled as he puzzledly asked. Didn't Xiaoyi mention that she wanted to bring it back with her so that she could let her parents have a taste?

Ouyang Xiaoyi swallowed her saliva and said with a grin, "I can't bear it any longer. I'll have a taste for them first."

Even though Bu Fang knew that she was feeling gluttonous, he did not expose her and only told her to wait.

After a while, two servings of Oyster Buns were ready to be eaten.

He handed one serving to Xiaoyi and took the other serving for himself. The two of them comfortably pulled a chair to the entrance and ate the Oyster Buns.

Tearing off the bamboo leaves, Ouyang Xiaoyi impatiently took a bite of the Oyster Bun. A crisp sound rang out. As she bit down on the crispy crust of the Oyster Bun, the juice of the radishes flowed into her mouth.

A rich fragrance was exuding from the Oyster Buns and had enveloped her surroundings. She had an enraptured expression on her face as she continued to eat the Oyster Bun with her head lowered.

The two of them were curled up on the chairs as they ate the

Oyster Buns. The fragrance was slowly spreading and was lingering within the alleyway,

.....

"Your Majesty, this is the food your humble servant brought back from the black-hearted store, the Oyster Bun." Lian Fu was carrying a silver plate with numerous exquisite patterns carved on its surface.

Two hemispherical golden Oyster Buns were placed on the silver plate and were still exuding a slight warmth as a faint aroma hovered above it.

The Emperor Ji Changfeng stroked his beard as he puzzledly looked at Lian Fu and asked, "Xiao Fu, didn't I tell you to bring back all of the dishes? Why did you only bring back such a tiny thing?"

The appearance of the Oyster Bun was indeed terrible. It looked like a type of food that commoners would eat.

When Lian Fu heard the emperor's words, his heart trembled and he immediately complained with a long face, "Your Majesty, there's something you don't know. The owner of that black-hearted store said that all the other dishes are not permitted for takeouts. Only this Oyster Bun is allowed for takeouts."

"Oh? Then you've tasted the other dishes?" Ji Changfeng

indifferently asked as he gave Lian Fu a sidelong glance.

"Hmm, the taste was excellent, especially that Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs..." Lian Fu was about to describe Bu Fang's dishes when he felt the emperor's incomprehensible gaze. His heart suddenly trembled as he took a step back and bowed, "Uh, Your Majesty, it's my mistake!"

"Looks like the culinary skills of that store's owner should be pretty good. Otherwise, you wouldn't be praising him so highly. Then, I'll give this... Oyster Bun a taste," Ji Changfeng said.

Lian Fu was immediately overjoyed that the emperor did not blame him and hurriedly straightened his back. He offered up the silver plate to Ji Changfeng and took out a small silver dagger which he used to slice one of the Oyster Buns in half after pulling back his baggy sleeves.

A rich fragrance was instantly released as the Oyster Bun, that previously had a weaker aroma, was sliced open. It was like an aromatic bomb was stepped on.

A white juice seeped out from the opening and covered half of the plate.

Ji Changfeng's eyes immediately lit up as he smelled the Oyster Bun's aroma. He exclaimed in surprise, "The smell is fragrant but not pungent, it's mellow but lingers in the air. Good!"

Lian Fu was extremely surprised as well. He did not think that the unassuming Oyster Bun would be so fragrant. With such a rich fragrance, the taste should be quite good as well.

Ji Changfeng reached out his hand and picked up one of the Oyster Bun that was sliced open. He looked at the plump Oyster Bun and promptly took a bite. The flavor of the oyster was unreservedly released in his mouth. It instantly rushed into his nasal cavities and caused all of the pores on his body to widen.

The crispy crust that was perfectly deep fried combined with the tenderness of the shredded radish created an unprecedented texture. Ji Chengfeng could only give praise.

"Delicious! What an excellent Oyster Bun!"

Lian Fu swallowed his saliva and was joyous as well. He thought, "Your Majesty, I am just glad that you're happy. I am only afraid that I would be in trouble if you weren't..."

After that half of the Oyster Bun was eaten, Ji Changfeng could not help but lick his lips as he wiped off the oil stains on his beard. He picked up the other half of the Oyster Bun and finished it within a short while.

After eating both Oyster Buns, Ji Changfeng happily breathed out with a satisfied expression.

"It's been a while since I've had such a comfortable meal. This

black-hearted store has some ability after all. I am suddenly curious about the other dishes."

"Your Majesty, that store doesn't permit takeout... Your Majesty would need to personally visit the store in order to eat the other dishes." Lian Fu was feeling slightly indignant.

"So what if I have to personally visit? With such delicious dishes, it's worth it for me to personally go there. Besides, isn't there a wine better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine in that store? I've always yearned for good wine. Xiao Fu, go and make preparations. I'll personally go there tomorrow."

"Oh my, Your Majesty?! There's no need for Your Majesty to personally visit such a store. Your humble servant will go back tomorrow and make sure to bring all the dishes back." Lian Fu was feeling slightly anxious. With the emperor's condition, how could he let him personally go there?

Ji Changfeng indifferently glanced at Lian Fu and said, "Xiao Fu, if I could visit Immortal Phoenix Restaurant for the sake of a Roasted Flower Duck, why can't I enter this store for delicious food? Remember, we're going incognito, tomorrow."

Lian Fu felt helpless. He made up his mind to secretly arrange for the imperial physicians to be at the ready, aside from other arrangements. He would still be able to react, in case something happened.

At the same moment, in Fang Fang's Little Store, Ouyang Xiaoyi

was looking at Bu Fang in a pitiful manner after finishing the two Oyster Buns.

"Smelly boss, just give Xiaoyi another serving. Xiaoyi isn't satisfied yet."

Her large eyes were blinking in a lovely, touching manner that would give anyone a strong urge to protect her.

Bu Fang glanced at her and simply said, "No, if you eat too much Oyster Buns... you'll [accumulate internal heat](#)."

accumulate internal heat - In Traditional Chinese Medicine(TCM), food is categorized into heaty, neutral, and cooling and it is believed that illnesses are caused by consuming an imbalance diet. When someone is suffering from certain ailments(e.g. Having a sore throat.) defined as "heaty", they would consume "cooling" food to offset that imbalance.

Chapter 62: Ji Chengxue's Farewell

Host: Bu Fang

Gender: Male

Age: Twenty

True Energy Cultivation Level: Third Grade (Has already achieved the ability to manifest true energy outside of the body. As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Unknown

Skills: Level One Meteor Knife Technique (52/100)

Tools: Fragments of the God of Cooking Set (3/4)

God of Cooking overall rating: Apprentice Chef (You can finally cook ingredients with your true energy. Practice your knife skills and the road to becoming the God of Cooking will open for you. Work hard, young man.)

The current turnover is two thousand eight hundred and eighty crystals. True energy conversion degree: 720/1000

System Level: Three Stars (Conversion ratio is at twenty-five percent, customers are allowed to bring ingredients lower than fourth grade.)

The next morning, Bu Fang drowsily got up from bed. He was looking at the system panel while washing up.

After looking at the true energy conversion degree, he realized that he should be able to reach the next level soon. He was currently a third grade Battle-Maniac. Once he reached a thousand crystals, his true energy value would reach fourth grade Battle-Spirit. At that time, he would become much more proficient at controlling true energy

"What exactly is the set... I am really curious. However, I've already collected three fragments. Once I reach the next level, I should be able to complete the collection," Bu Fang muttered as he headed downstairs.

Then he arrived at the kitchen and began his daily radish slicing practice.

After finishing his practice, Bu Fang walked toward the entrance and opened the door. The air seemed to have gotten colder and even the cold wind blowing on his face was slightly bone-chilling.

Bu Fang glanced at Blacky, who was still soundly asleep, and returned to the kitchen to practice his cooking. After a while, an

overwhelmingly fragrant Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was completed.

"It's time to eat, Blacky." As Bu Fang placed the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky, it immediately became energetic.

Fatty Jin and his buddies arrived as usual and left after finishing breakfast. Eating at Bu Fang's place had already become a habit for them. Even though Bu Fang's dishes were expensive, Fatty Jin was a nouveau riche... He did not lack money.

Xiao Yue did not appear anymore after he was blown out of the store by Blacky's sneeze, as if he had completely disappeared from within the imperial city. However, Bu Fang did not mind at all. At the most, he felt regret over the loss of a customer.

Within the alleyway, a slightly bone-chilling autumn wind was blowing. Ji Chengxue, who was wearing a white robe, slowly approached the store. His fair and gentle face and his narrowed eyes made it seem as if he was constantly smiling.

"Owner Bu, good morning," Ji Chengxue gently greeted Bu Fang. Bu Fang indifferently nodded and acknowledged the greeting.

"Your Highness big brother, why are you so early today?" Ouyang Xiaoyi puzzledly asked Ji Chengxue, who had just stepped into the store and sat down.

Ji Chengxue patted Xiaoyi's head and said with a chuckle, "I am here to eat Owner Bu's dishes today."

"What are you eating today?" Bu Fang asked.

"I'll have a serving of each dish. After this time, I don't know whether I would have the chance to taste Owner Bu's dishes anymore," Ji Chengxue said with a sigh.

"Hmm? What's wrong?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked. Ouyang Xiaoyi was curiously looking at Ji Chengxue as well.

Ji Chengxue's gaze was slightly downcast as he simply said, "It's nothing. It's just family matters. I'll be leaving the imperial city tomorrow. As for when I am returning, I have no idea either."

"I understand, give me a moment." Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and went back into the kitchen. Then he returned with a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and directly tossed it toward Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue was startled as he caught the jar of wine. Then with a gentle smile, he removed the cloth cover and poured the wine into a cup.

Bu Fang poured a cup for himself as well. He lifted up his wine cup and they lightly clinked their cups together as he said, "I wish you safe journey."

"Hahaha, thank you. How about treating me to a meal today? Or give me a discount?" Ji Chengxue finished the cup of wine in one

gulp and started to chuckle.

Bu Fang indifferently glanced at him and expressionlessly replied, "No."

Then Bu Fang returned to the kitchen and began to cook the other dishes.

Footsteps could be heard from the alleyway once more and three figures slowly approached.

"Your Highness is refined. You came so early today," Xiao Meng slightly bowed toward Ji Chengxue with a straight face, while Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu stood behind him.

Xiao Yanyu's complexion was much better. It seemed that the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup had taken effect.

"General Xiao, I've made a fool of myself. Since I am setting off tomorrow, I came here to eat Owner Bu's dishes for one last time so that I wouldn't be craving for his food during the campaign." Ji Chengxue chuckled as he filled his own cup and another one for Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng was silent for a moment, before he sighed and received the cup of wine from Ji Chengxue.

The two of them sat down and began to drink.

Ouyang Xiaoyi informed Bu Fang about the dishes that the Xiao family had ordered and he indicated that he understood.

Dish after dish of overwhelmingly fragrant dishes were brought out by Ouyang Xiaoyi and placed onto the table. These were all ordered by Ji Chengxue. He was enjoying himself as he drank while eating the delicious food.

"General Xiao, how has my elder sister been doing recently?" Ji Chengxue took a sip of wine and said as he looked toward Xiao Meng with a complicated gaze.

Xiao Meng slightly frowned and finished the cup of wine in a single gulp. He lightly breathed out and gloomily said, "She's still in a comatose state as always. The imperial physicians don't understand the reason either. It's already been three years and I still don't know when Ruer will wake up."

"Sister has always been such a kind person, heaven will certainly help her. I am sure she'll wake up one day," Ji Chengxue consoled him.

Ji Ruer was the elder sister of Ji Chengxue, the wife of Xiao Meng, and the mother of Xiao Yue. Three years prior, Xiao Yue used the blood from his mother's heart as an offering to comprehend the true essence of the way of the sword and caused Ji Ruer to fall into a coma. Now that three years had passed, there was still no indication of Ji Ruer waking up.

Within the past three years, Xiao Meng had searched the entire Light Wind Empire for extraordinary individuals and doctors with exceptional skills in order to wake up Ji Ruer, but there had been no results.

Because of this matter, his hair had turned white from worry. For a seventh grade Battle-Saint, this was something unbelievable.

"Actually, I don't dare to hope for it anymore. Even though Ruer is still in a coma, I am already contented that she's still alive. I came here today to inquire Owner Bu whether there's a way to wake up Ruer. I am only grasping at straws here," Xiao Meng honestly told Ji Chengxue about his objective in visiting the store.

Ji Chengxue nodded in agreement. If Bu Fang's medicinal cuisine could help Xiao Yanyu to recover from a severe loss of life force when she was close to dying, there was a chance that it could wake up his elder sister.

He could not help but feel a sense of hope as well.

The both of them did not speak any further and continued to drink the wine. Within this period, Xiao Meng only exhorted Ji Chengxue about certain matters during a campaign.

Even though Ji Chengxue was a prince, he was the third son after all. His mother was only a concubine with a lowly status. He was neither comparable to the crown prince, Ji Chengan, nor to King Yu, Ji Chengyu, and he was also not favored by the emperor himself. If Xiao Meng was not his brother-in-law, the third prince

could have already been erased by the crown prince or King Yu.

There was a reason behind the saying, "The royalty has no relatives".

"You must take care of your own safety during the campaign. Remember, even though His Majesty doesn't favor you, you're still a prince," Xiao Meng seriously said.

Ji Chengxue indifferently nodded and gulped down a cup of wine.

As the two of them chatted while drinking, the sound of coughing rang out from outside as an elderly figure slowly walked into the store.

The gaze of Ji Chengxue and Xiao Meng naturally shifted toward the person who just arrived. Their expressions immediately froze and their eyes were filled with incredulity.

Chapter 63: Hello, Emperor

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue looked in surprise toward the person that just arrived. Their eyes were filled with incredulity.

"Your Majesty?! Why are you here?" Xiao Meng hurriedly stood up and went forward to meet the emperor. The stunned expression on his face had still not dissipated. The fact that the emperor himself would visit a store situated within an alleyway was out of anyone's expectations.

"[Your son and subject greets father emperor](#)," Ji Chengxue stood up as well and saluted the elderly man.

Your son and subject greets father and emperor. (儿臣见过父皇) - Whenever a prince meets the emperor, he would refer to himself as "son and subject"(儿臣) while referring to the emperor as "father emperor"(父皇). The term, 父皇, has actually been used quite a few times in a few other chapters but I've simplified them into "father".

Even though the elderly man's hair had turned white, his mental state was still pretty good. He wore a beautiful robe and his hair was fixed in place with a green jade hairpin. With his hands placed behind his back, he was exuding a grandeur and refined aura.

"General Xiao? Chengxue? Are you eating at this store as well? Looks like the food here should be pretty good." Ji Changfeng faintly smiled as he stepped into the store. He was coughing as he walked and his body swayed with every step. He gave off the feeling of someone who had one foot in his grave.

Xiao Meng hurriedly supported him, fearing that the emperor would suffer a mishap.

"Your Majesty, why are you out here alone? This is unsafe. Even though the experts from the clan hiding within the imperial city have mostly retreated, there's no guarantee that there's none of them hiding around," Xiao Meng anxiously said.

The emperor waved him off and simply said, "It doesn't matter. Back in the day, I was still considered someone who awed the world. Even though I've grown old, not just anyone would dare to approach me. I came here today to talk about food and not anything else."

The emperor sat down on a chair and surveyed the surroundings. The space within the store was not big. There were a few neatly placed tables and the decorations were quite cozy. There was a certain sense of charm.

The emperor sniffed the air and his gaze shifted toward the table that Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue were previously sitting at. His eyes slightly lit up as he said, "The aroma of this wine is truly rich. Could this be the fine wine that is better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?"

"Yes, Your Majesty. This is the wine exclusive to this store, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. A jar costs fifteen crystals," Xiao Meng said with a nod.

"Fifteen crystals... that's not cheap. However, I am even more

anxious to taste it now. Where's the owner? I want to meet him and order the dishes at the same time," the emperor asked.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was shyly looking at the emperor with her eyes widened. When she heard his words, she turned to the kitchen window and shouted, "Smelly boss, the emperor grandpa wishes to meet you."

"Hmm? Who?" Bu Fang's indifferent voice rang out from the kitchen, accompanied by the sound of stir frying.

"The emperor grandpa," Ouyang Xiaoyi earnestly repeated herself.

"Oh, let him wait," Bu Fang's indifferent voice drifted out but Ouyang Xiaoyi was dumbfounded by his words.

The little loli was exasperated. Whenever she spoke with Bu Fang, she felt like vomiting blood from exasperation.

The person that wanted to meet him was the emperor, the number one person within the Light Wind Empire as well as the supreme ruler. What did he mean by letting him wait?

Ji Changfeng and the others had heard the complete dialogue between Bu Fang and Ouyang Xiaoyi and their expressions were inexplicably wonderful.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue did not know how to respond. They

thought, "This Owner Bu... His character is still as eccentric as always. He doesn't even give face to the emperor."

On the other hand, Ji Changfeng was amused and thought it was interesting. If ordinary chefs heard his title, they would hurriedly come and fawn over him. There was not a single case like Bu Fang where he was completely ignored.

"This owner... has an interesting character." Ji Changfeng faintly smiled as he stroked his beard.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue awkwardly smiled along as well.

Finally, after a few minutes, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen. He was holding a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in his hand. The rich aroma of the meat spread out and enveloped the entire store. The tangerine color of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was tantalizing.

"Here's your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang simply said as he placed the plate on Ji Chengxue's table.

Then he turned around and looked toward the elderly man sitting on the chair. He thought, "This must be the emperor grandpa that Xiaoyi mentioned."

"Hello, emperor," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Everyone was startled. The emperor was stunned for a moment and started laughing while stroking his beard.

"Hello, young man. Are you the owner of this store? What's the name of that dish just now? It's very fragrant." The emperor had a gentle smile on his face as he looked at Bu Fang. He thought that the owner was interesting.

"Oh, the name of the dish is Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. It's the most expensive dish in the store for now," Bu Fang simply said.

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs... With such an alluring smell, I am looking forward to it. Good." The emperor nodded with a chuckle.

"The menu is behind you, tell me what you want to eat. The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is limited to three jars per day and there's only one jar left today," Bu Fang said as he pointed to the menu behind the emperor.

The emperor was surprised for a moment. He turned his head and saw the menu on the wall filled with dishes with astronomical prices.

The emperor frowned and lightly coughed a few times. Then he asked, "Interesting, a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals. Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs... fifty crystals per serving. Why are they being sold at such an expensive price?"

"There's naturally a reason why the price is so expensive. Our store has a strict standard when it comes to the ingredients, handling process, and cooking process. Not only are our dishes delicious, but they can also promote the circulation and growth of

true energy within a cultivator's body. These prices are... fair," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

"Your dishes can promote cultivation? Even the meat of spirit beasts would lose most of its spirit energy after cooking. How do you manage to cook dishes that can promote cultivation?" the emperor curiously asked.

Bu Fang indifferently glanced at the emperor and said with a frown, "This is a secret."

Cough cough cough... Xiao Meng and the rest immediately coughed a few times. The mood became slightly awkward because of Bu Fang's reply.

On the contrary, the emperor nodded. "You probably have a special handling method and cooking method. This is indeed a secret and should not be casually revealed."

"Young man, then give me a serving of each of the dishes here. Let me taste this so-called dishes that can promote the circulation of true energy," the emperor said while stroking his beard as he calmly looked at Bu Fang.

"Alright, wait a moment. I'll cook your order once I've finished cooking their dishes," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied with a nod before he turned around and headed toward the kitchen.

This time, the emperor was frowning and slight unhappy as he

asked, "Why aren't you cooking mine first?"

"First-come, first-served is the rule of the store," Bu Fang turned around at the entrance to the kitchen and replied.

"Cough cough... Owner Bu, it's fine if our dishes are served later. Please serve His Majesty's order before ours," Xiao Meng awkwardly coughed and hurriedly said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at Xiao Meng and simply said, "I already said that this is the rule of the store. First-come, first-served... Since you ordered first, I'll cook your dish first."

After Bu Fang finished speaking, he entered the kitchen and continued cooking the dishes.

Xiao Meng was dumbfounded by Bu Fang's words. He did not know how to respond as he helplessly looked at Bu Fang.

The smile on the emperor's face had already disappeared and his unfathomable gaze was directed toward the kitchen as his fingers tapped on the table. He simply said, "He has an interesting character, but this character must be built on the basis of strength. I'll give him a chance. If his dishes are unable to impress me, then there's no need for this store to continue operating."

The emperor was still the emperor after all. As the supreme ruler, when was he ever ignored by anyone like this? Bu Fang's indifference incited the emperor's displeasure as well.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue suddenly felt their hearts skipped a beat. They were aware that the emperor was annoyed.

Chapter 64: Egg-Fried Rice Matched With Fish Head Tofu Soup

The atmosphere within the store suddenly quieted down. The oppression coming from the emperor as he contemplated was causing Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue to hold their breath.

Emperor Changfeng was still Emperor Changfeng after all. He spent a few dozen years battling the sects outside of the borders and destroyed numerous sects that used to be incomparably glorious. The intimidating aura and killing intent exuded from his body was extremely concentrated.

However, Xiao Meng was slightly frowning as he leaned over to the emperor's ear and softly whispered, "Your Majesty... don't forget about the background of this store. The big black dog lying at the entrance is a supreme beast. There's going to be some difficulty if you wish to destroy this store."

The corner of the emperor's mouth slightly widened as he glanced at Xiao Meng and simply said, "Great General Xiao, I remembered that you said in your report that as long as someone doesn't cause trouble within the store, that supreme spirit beast would not intervene, am I correct?"

Xiao Meng was slightly surprised for a moment. He did not understand why the emperor would ask such a question but he still solemnly nodded. "Yes, Your Majesty."

"Then, it's simple. The rules of this store is that as long as

someone doesn't cause trouble within the store, the supreme spirit beast would be unable to intervene. There are many methods to ruin this store, but there aren't many methods that would allow us to both ruin the store and prevent the supreme spirit beast from intervening. However, it doesn't mean that there isn't any." The emperor's index finger lightly tapped the surface of the table and created a dull thud.

Xiao Meng's pupils slightly constricted as he thought, "There are other methods? Could His Majesty find someone who could suppress a supreme spirit beast within the imperial city?"

"General Xiao, you're naturally unaware of various business tactics since you're constantly out in the field. Even though this store has a supreme spirit beast, it's still a store and there are certain rules that it follows. If I forbid anyone from patronising this store, do you still think it'll be able to continue operating?" The emperor chuckled as he reminded Xiao Meng.

A sudden realization dawned on Xiao Meng as a wondrous expression appeared on his face. He thought, "That's right. With the pride of the supreme spirit beast, as long as no one caused any trouble within the store, it would definitely not intervene. Targeting the business was the most simple and effective method."

"Haha, there's no need for General Xiao to worry. I am only speaking without thinking. As long as Owner Bu's dishes are able to satisfy me, why would I interfere with his business?" The emperor started to chuckle while stroking his beard.

"Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang called out. While the others had

been chatting outside, he had completed another dish.

"Smelly boss... If your dishes don't satisfy the emperor grandpa, he's going to forbid others from entering your store," Ouyang Xiaoyi leaned into the kitchen and softly whispered to Bu Fang while she was picking up the dish.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and did not seem to care in slightest as he replied, "Oh."

"Eh? Smelly boss, are you not worried?" Xiaoyi was pouting as she asked. She was reminding the smelly boss out of the kindness of her heart and he actually responded with an indifferent attitude. How exasperating!

Bu Fang patted Xiaoyi's head and said with a smirk, "There's no need to worry. There's no one who wouldn't be satisfied by the food made by this God of Cooking."

Ouyang Xiaoyi went into a daze as she stared at Bu Fang, who was filled with confidence. Her eyes were almost shooting out stars as she thought, "The confident smelly boss is really handsome!"

"Go, don't let the customers wait," Bu Fang said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi nodded and eagerly carried the dish toward Ji Chengxue's table.

"Your Highness big brother, here's your Lees Fish. Please enjoy

your meal," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she placed the Lees Fish in front of Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue nodded. He subconsciously glanced toward the emperor and discovered that the latter was attracted by the mixed aroma between wine and fish of the Lees Fish.

The emperor's gaze had drifted toward the Lees Fish. His face filled with wrinkles was slightly trembling and he seemed to be swallowing his saliva.

"Father... Would you like to give this a try?" Ji Chengxue respectfully asked.

When the emperor heard Ji Chengxue's words, he shifted his gaze away and simply said, "There's no need, eat it yourself. I've already ordered mine... By the way, what's the name of this dish?"

"Lees Fish," Ji Chengxue respectfully replied.

The emperor nonchalantly nodded. He slightly closed his eyes and stopped paying any attention to his surroundings.

Ji Chengxue sighed. His gaze while looking at the emperor was slightly gloomy as he thought, "Why does father dislike me so much... I am your son as well and I've also been fighting at the frontlines. Why can't you give me the slightest concern at all?"

Xiao Meng felt helpless as well. He walked toward Ji Chengxue's

table and poured a cup of wine. The both of them clinked their cups together and started drinking together.

As the rich fragrance of the dishes continuously drifted out from the kitchen, the emperor's eyelids that were tightly shut slightly twitched and his eyes finally opened.

Having finished his food, Ji Chengxue stood up and respectfully saluted the emperor. He said in a calm tone, "Father, I still need to attend the campaign ceremony, so I'll be leaving early."

The emperor nodded and waved his hand to indicate that he could leave.

Ji Chengxue meaningfully glanced at the emperor's figure and his eyes focused for a moment. Then he turned around and left as the sleeves of his robe fluttered like rolling waves.

"Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out from the kitchen once more.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up. She knew that the next dish was for the emperor. She was waiting for this moment just to watch the scene when the emperor was subdued by Bu Fang's dish.

The improved Egg-Fried Rice was overwhelmingly fragrant. The light golden and viscous egg fluid wrapped around the pearl-like rice grains seemed to be emitting a faint radiance that was captivating to the eyes.

"Emperor grandpa, here's your improved Egg-Fried Rice." Ouyang Xiaoyi placed the plate of Egg-Fried Rice in front of the emperor and her large eyes were filled with expectation as she looked at him.

"Good, good. Xiaoyi, why are you working here as a waitress? Did your grandfather agree to this?" The emperor gently said as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head with a kind smile.

"Hmph, if grandpa dares to prevent me from coming here, I'll pull his beard!" Ouyang Xiaoyi gleefully said while her eyes narrowed into a slit.

The emperor was laughing as his gaze shifted toward the Egg-Fried Rice. With this look, his gaze changed.

As the emperor, his requirement toward food was very strict. Inside of the imperial palace, the chefs within the imperial kitchen were all carefully selected among tens of thousands of chefs within the Light Wind Empire. They were all elites within the culinary world.

The dishes that he had tasted were innumerable and his evaluation ability toward food was incomparable to ordinary people.

Regarding the plate of Egg-Fried Rice, putting aside the fragrance, the appearance itself had already completely attracted his attention. It was cooked not like those traditional Egg-Fried

Rice. The eggs of Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice were eighty percent well-done and were poured onto the rice grains like a sauce.

The emperor used a porcelain spoon to lightly scoop up a spoonful of rice, and the egg fluid left a string-like trail as he lifted it up. Hot air was rising up from the gaping hole created and was accompanied by a fragrance as it assaulted his nostrils. He was completely enveloped by the smell and it seemed as if he had fallen into a sea of fragrance.

As he shoved the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth, the egg fluid, that was eighty percent well-done, instantly solidified. It was filled with elasticity as it bounced around his tongue and mouth walls and created a peculiar texture.

Gulp!

After finishing a mouthful of Egg-Fried Rice, the emperor could not help but scoop another spoonful... It was completely a subconscious movement.

"It's so fragrant! It's so delicious!" The emperor's eyes completely lit up. He had not eaten such a delicious food for a long time, food that was able to widen all the pores on his entire body.

While the emperor was enjoying the Egg-Fried Rice, Ouyang Xiaoyi was once again carrying another dish over. It was the overwhelmingly fragrant Fish Head Tofu Soup that was contained within a large blue and white porcelain bowl.

The milky-white soup was rocking within the bowl. The barely noticeable jade-like tofu was brilliantly glowing while the tender fish was exuding a meaty aroma.

"Emperor grandpa, eating Egg-Fried Rice while drinking Fish Head Tofu Soup is the most comfortable thing to do. Here, try Xiaoyi's most favorite Fish Head Tofu Soup."

When Ouyang Xiaoyi saw the emperor's intoxicated expression, she was extremely happy like a flower had bloomed within her heart. She placed the bowl of Fish Head Tofu Soup in front of the emperor and even personally filled a small bowl for him.

When the milky-white fish soup that exuded a rich fragrance was matched with the rice fragrance from the Egg-Fried Rich, the emperor's appetite was immediately triggered as he felt hunger pangs coming from his stomach.

After tasting a mouthful of fish soup, the flavor of the fish and the aroma of the tofu blossomed at the tip of his tongue and enveloped his taste buds. He could not help but exclaim, "This fish soup... Excellent!"

From a distance, Xiao Meng breathed out a sigh of relief as he thought, "Your Majesty, it's great that you're happy. As long as you're happy, you won't think of interfering with Owner Bu's store and I won't need to face the supreme spirit beast. Everybody is happy."

Chapter 65: Young Man, Work Under Me!

At the entrance of the alleyway, teams of armor-wearing imperial guards were solemnly standing there and had completely blockaded the entrance. In front of them, Lian Fu, who was wearing a brocade robe, was anxiously pacing around while waving a horsetail whisk. Once in a while, he would pause for a moment and look toward the store with concern in his eyes.

"His Majesty is too much. It's not like I would snatch his food, why doesn't he let me accompany him?" Lian Fu dissatisfiedly sighed. He spread his senses and alertly scanned the surroundings. It was not a small matter that the emperor left the imperial palace. If the experts from the sects found out, they would flock toward their location to assassinate him.

Suddenly, a disturbance occurred among the guards. As they created a path, a refined figure slowly walked through.

"Your Highness is here as well. What a coincidence," Lian Fu said with a chuckle as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together.

Ji Chengxue's mood was slightly indifferent. He only nodded before he walked away. His robes were fluttering as he left a breeze in his wake.

Lian Fu was feeling helpless as he watched Ji Chengxue's back figure. He thought, "It looks like His Highness met His Majesty within the store and they didn't get along."

"The royalty has no relatives. As someone from the imperial household, you'll need to face imperial matters. Since His Majesty doesn't like the third prince, it doesn't matter how diligent or outstanding he is."

"Pay attention! His Majesty is currently inside the alleyway. If something happens to His Majesty, you all know the consequences!" Lian Fu whispered a warning to the guards.

"Oh my, isn't this Chief Eunuch Lian? It's been a while!" A fawning voice rang out and interrupted Lian Fu who was about to give a long lecture to the guards.

Lian Fu puzzledly glanced at the man who just approached. The figure in front of him was thin and had an ugly and vulgar appearance. He was wearing a luxurious brocade robe with a belt inlaid with green jade at his waist and his fingers were adorned with glittering rings. He had the appearance of a nouveau riche.

"You are?" Lian Fu puzzled asked. He thought, "I don't seem to recall being acquainted with such a vulgar-looking old man."

"Chief Eunuch Lian, did you forget about me? I am the owner of Phoenix Immortal Restaurant. Didn't His Majesty come over to eat the Roasted Flower Duck previously? At that time, I was the one who personally served the dish!" the man who approached said with a smile while his eyes narrowed into a slit. He did not seem to mind that Lian Fu had forgotten about him.

"Oh oh oh! You're called... Qian... Qian whatever something?" Lian Fu said as he narrowed his eyes and pointed toward the man with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Gong gong, this lowly person's name is Qian Bao," the man reminded him.

Lian Fu suddenly remembered as he nodded and said, "That's right, you're Qian Bao... Oh my, what's the owner of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant doing here?"

"This lowly person passed by and came to greet after seeing gong gong. It's been a while since gong gong has come to Immortal Phoenix Restaurant for a meal, when would you have the time to patronise our restaurant? Your presence would certainly bring great honor to our humble restaurant." Qian Bao was smiling brightly.

The dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant were indeed pretty good. It was considered a first class restaurant within the Light Wind Empire. However, after Lian Fu had eaten the dishes made by Bu Fang, even the food from the imperial kitchen tasted bland to him. There was no way he would visit the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Other than Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's signature dish, the Roasted Flower Duck, the standard of its other dishes were out of the question.

"Oh, I'll go when I have the time," Lian Fu absent-mindedly

noded and replied in a nonchalant manner.

"Alright, then this lowly person shall respectfully wait for gong gong's arrival." The smile on Qian Bao's face remained throughout the conversation. Regardless of Lian Fu's attitude, he was always smiling brightly.

After a while, Qian Bao carefully asked, "That... Gong gong, is His Majesty currently inside the alleyway?"

Lian Fu's eyes widened as he alertly looked at Qian Bao. He was frowning as he said in a high pitched voice, "What sort of intentions are you harboring by asking this question?"

"This lowly person only wishes His Majesty to honor our humble restaurant with his presence once more. Didn't His Majesty praise our Roasted Flower Duck as the number one duck within the Light Wind Empire? This lowly person was only wondering when His Majesty would taste Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes once more," Qian Bao hurriedly said as he waved his hand.

"If His Majesty wishes to eat, he would naturally send someone to retrieve the food. What are you so anxious about? You're dismissed," Lian Fu indifferently snorted and said after glancing at Qian Bao.

Qian Bao was still smiling as he nodded and asked to be excused. Then he turned around and left. After taking a few steps, the smile on his face gradually disappeared and was quickly replaced by a gloomy expression.

"The black-hearted store in the alleyway... Even His Majesty came in person? I was wondering why all the precious customers had disappeared recently. So they were all attracted by this little store," Qian Bao lowered his head as he muttered to himself with a gloomy expression.

"How dare you steal my business... I will definitely make you suffer. You're just a little store situated within an alleyway that relies on a signature dish. Hmph... Once this signature dish of yours is defeated, we'll see how you manage to steal my business!"

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"Emperor grandpa, this is the Lees Fish. Please enjoy your meal," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she placed the plate of Lees Fish in front of the emperor. As the wine aroma spread into the air, the emperor could not help but take a deep breath.

"The intensely aromatic Lees Fish, it's very fragrant!" The emperor praised as he impatiently picked up a pink piece of fish with his chopsticks. As the fish entered his mouth, the taste of the lees and flavor of the fish mixed together and enveloped his taste buds. He was captivated by the flavor.

"Emperor grandpa, this is the Golden Shumai. Please enjoy your meal."

As another dish was served, the interior of the store was completely enveloped by the fragrance of the dishes.

The emperor was grinning from ear to ear as he ate the dish. His mouth was constantly chewing and he was unable to stop at all. It had been a long time since he had tasted food that was able to captivate him.

Wiping off the oil stains on his beard, an overjoyed expression appeared on the emperor's face as he stared at the first-rate dishes in front of him. For a glutton like him, tasting delicious food was the happiest experience.

"Xiaoyi, isn't there a wine that's better than the imperial palace's Bejewelled Nectar Wine? Why haven't I seen it yet?" the emperor puzzled asked after contentedly swallowing a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

"There is. Emperor grandpa, wait a moment." Ouyang Xiaoyi grinned and cheerfully ran toward the kitchen window.

"Smelly boss, hurry up and bring out the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. The emperor grandpa wants a taste," Ouyang Xiaoyi said to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang had finished cooking the last dish and was wiping away the water droplets on his hands. He nodded and let Ouyang Xiaoyi serve the final dish first, while he took out the last jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from the cabinet.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen while carrying the jar of wine.

He placed the jar in front of the emperor and sat down at a seat. He looked at the emperor and simply asked, "How is it? Do you still want to shut down my store?"

The emperor was curiously picking up verdant and glistening vegetables that seemed to be completely uncooked. When he heard Bu Fang's question, a trace of embarrassment flashed across his face. However, the embarrassment soon vanished.

When he bit down on the vegetables, a warm vegetable juice immediately gushed into his mouth. The light flavor of the vegetables lingered in his mouth.

"This is Stir-Fried Vegetables?!" The emperor was extremely surprised after taking a bite.

"As you've seen, this is indeed a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables. It's just that the stir-fry process used a special cooking technique," Bu Fang simply said.

As Bu Fang was speaking, he removed the cloth cover of the wine jar and poured a cup of wine for the emperor. He pointed toward the cup and beckoned the emperor to have a taste.

The emperor's eyes immediately lit up. The fragrance of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine had already lured out the wine bug within his body and his craving for it was almost unbearable.

He picked up the blue and white porcelain cup and sipped the wine. The spiciness flowed through his lips to his tongue and suddenly blossomed. The emperor's entire body shuddered and even the wrinkles on his face seemed to be pulsing.

After finishing the cup of wine, the emperor smacked his lips as he lightly breathed out. He had a captivated expression on his face.

"The rumors were really true. The Ice Heart Jade Urn wine is indeed better than my Bejewelled Nectar Wine... I've lived for so many years and only tasted such a wine when I have one foot in the grave. Is this a punishment from the heavens or a reward?" the emperor did not know whether to laugh or cry as he exclaimed with his narrowed eyes.

"With such a fine wine and this sort of delicious food, if I still decide to seal Owner Bu's store, then I would be truly foolish." The emperor lightly stroked his beard as he beckoned Bu Fang to fill his cup. He drank another cup of wine and started laughing.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the laughing emperor, as if everything was within his expectations.

Just like he believed, there was no stomach that could not be subdued by his dishes!

The emperor consecutively drank three cups of wine and the wine was starting to take effect, but his eyes were even brighter.

The emperor stared at Bu Fang and slammed his cup down with a thud. His eyes were shining as he said, "Owner Bu, work under me. Come to my imperial kitchen. Your monthly salary will be... ten thousand crystals!"

Chapter 66: Do You Mind If I Name The Store?

"Work under me, your monthly salary will be... ten thousand crystals!"

The emperor said with a smile as he looked at Bu Fang with gleaming eyes and held out a shaking finger.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the emperor and did seem to notice the emperor's shaking finger. His eyes were slightly unfocused as he thought, "Hmm? How much did the emperor say my monthly salary would be just now? Ten thousand crystals?"

"My host, as someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, your pure goal should not be corrupted by materialism. You must strengthen your resolve and not be affected by riches! You must use your own hands to create a beautiful future."

The system's solemn encouragement shattered Bu Fang's delusions, whose resolve was slightly shaken. The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile.

Bu Fang indifferently looked at the emperor with steady eyes and simply asked, "Why should I work under you?"

The confident smile on the emperor's face suddenly froze and he said with a frown, "Because I am the emperor, the supreme ruler. Don't I have the qualifications to hire you as the imperial chef?"

"There are countless chefs in the world who desire to enter the imperial kitchen, just to have a chance to cook a dish for me..."

"Is the emperor that incredible? If they wish to go, then let them go." Bu Fang simply said. His gaze was calm. He was neither arrogant nor overbearing. It was as if he was declaring an ordinary matter.

The emperor suddenly froze. Even Xiao Meng who was observing the both of them in a distance was startled as well.

When the emperor recovered from his stupor, the corner of his mouth was twitching. Bu Fang was probably the only person in the world who would dare to speak to him in such a manner... However, there was nothing he could do to Bu Fang within the store.

"Don't waste your energy. I won't be swayed by anyone. If you want to eat my dishes, just come to my store. As for going to that so-called imperial kitchen, I have no interest at all," Bu Fang simply said as he stood up. His tone was calm, as if he was simply drinking water.

The emperor meaningfully glanced at Bu Fang and nodded. He did not persist. There were some things where you only need to ask in order to know the result.

"What an idealistic and ambitious chef," the emperor thought. He no longer said anything as he narrowed his eyes and enjoyed the

comfortable feeling brought by the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

After eating for a while, the emperor finally finished his meal. As he cleaned his beard, the wrinkles on his face seemed to have come alive.

"Excellent! Delicious! It's been a long time since I've tasted such delicious dishes! You deserve to be rewarded!" The emperor said while stroking his beard, "As for the reward... it's hard to decide."

Bu Fang went into a daze. He did not expect the emperor to offer such a proposal.

The emperor held his hands behind his back as he glanced around the store. Suddenly, an unfathomable smile appeared on his face.

"Owner Bu, I've already thought of a reward for you. Ordinary crystals would be far too vulgar and you wouldn't be able to use expensive elixirs. I saw that your store still doesn't have a signboard, so how about I personally name your store?" The emperor benevolently looked at Bu Fang.

From his point of view, Bu Fang would definitely not reject this reward. With a signboard personally written by the emperor, the fame of the store would definitely rise up and become completely well-known within the Light Wind Empire. It was a reward far more practical for a store than crystals.

"Notice to the host, the store's interior furnishing are to be completed by the system. The store's signboard system has already been prepared. The host must not accept any signboard given by others."

Bu Fang already knew that, with the system's proudful nature, it would definitely not allow him to accept such a bountiful reward.

"I am grateful for your kind intentions. If you like my dishes, you can patronize the store often. As for the matter regarding the signboard, there's no need for that. The store's furnishing are well enough, so there's no need for any changes," Bu Fang expressionlessly said as he ignored his conscience and rejected the emperor's kind intentions once more.

The emperor was feeling really embarrassed. He was mercilessly rejected by Bu Fang when he tried to entice Bu Fang into working under him. Now, he was even rejected when he wanted to name the store...

The black-hearted store was indeed first class at being arrogant, but it had the qualifications to do so.

"Good, very good! Then, I thank Owner Bu for your hospitality." The emperor indifferently nodded with an expressionless face. He placed down some crystals and left under Xiao Meng's escort.

Due to the emperor's visit, many of the store's regular customers were unable to enter.

Xushi was originally planning to eat Boiled Fish that day. However, when he arrived at the entrance of the alleyway, he discovered a large crowd blocking his way. He was shocked by the imposing spectacle and only understood the whole story after asking around.

"My heavens, even His Majesty personally visited Owner Bu's store! I must immediately inform His Highness about this!" Xushi was startled. He could not care about eating anymore as he turned around and left.

At the same moment, the fact that the emperor personally visited a restaurant located within an alleyway was quickly spread among the entire imperial city.

The emperor was famous and the so-called celebrity effect was just like that. Fang Fang's Little Store had truly become renowned this time. Due to the emperor's fame, it was completely well-known within the imperial city. Almost everyone among the bigwigs knew about this information.

"What did you say? Did father really visited the store personally?"

On the left side of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and within the majestic palace of the crown prince, Xushi truthfully reported the information to the crown prince. The crown prince's pupils immediately constricted and he suddenly stood up.

"Yes, Your Highness. The entrance to the alleyway was

completely sealed off by Chief Eunuch Lian and his men..." Xushi said.

The crown prince held his hands behind his back as he paced a few steps. Then he raised his head and asked, "Xushi, Is there any news about the Blood Phoenix Chicken that I told you to search for?"

"Your Highness... there is news. It will arrive at the imperial city after a few more days," Xushi said as he bowed.

Ji Chengan nodded with a grave expression. "I don't know whether father found out about the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup during his visit. Once father finds about this information, I'll have to immediately present the Blood Phoenix Chicken. If father does not know... I will personally bring the ingredients and let Owner Bu cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup."

The crown prince massaged his fingers as the corners of his mouth curled up.

.....

King Yu's manor, center of the garden.

King Yu, Ji Chengyu, was wearing casual clothes with his hair down. He was holding crystal dust in his hand as he slowly walked around the pond located at the center of the garden. From time to time, he would pinch a little bit of crystal dust and toss it into the

pond.

Once the crystal dust entered the pond, fishes with various colors swimming in the water vied over the sparse amount of crystal dust.

A red fish, that was unable to snatch any of the crystal dust, immediately wriggled its body angrily within the pond. Its mouth opened widely and revealed a set of sharp teeth as it swallowed a fish that managed to snatch away the crystal dust.

A faint smell of blood spread into the air from the middle of the pond...

King Yu had a joyful expression on his face, but his gaze was slightly cold as he looked at the fish that devoured the other fish.

"If even a fish knows to compete, how could someone from the royal family be compassionate? Every single contention is accompanied by a bloody battle..."

King Yu softly muttered. Suddenly, a series of footsteps rang out from behind him.

Several figures appeared behind him. They were all wearing black robes and a faint amount of true energy hovered around them.

"You're finally here." The corner of King Yu's mouth curled up as

he tossed the remaining crystal dust into the pond and slowly turned around.

One of the figures raised his hands and took off his hood, revealing a gaunt looking face. He had deep sunken eyes and there seemed to be a spirit fire pulsing within his pupils.

"Head elder of Soul Sect, Hun Qianyun, greets King Yu."

Chapter 67: Young Man, Use Your Tongue To Find Fault

The weather was becoming colder and colder, as if it had turned from late autumn into winter in a flash. The pedestrians on the streets of the imperial city were starting to cover themselves in thick cotton-padded clothes. As they walked down the streets early in the morning, water vapour could be clearly seen coming from their mouth when they exhaled.

Bang bang bang!

A series of banging sounds came from the door. Bu Fang who had just gotten up and was practicing the Meteor Knife Technique in the kitchen was slightly startled. He thought, "It's still early in the morning... Who's knocking on the door?"

Bu Fang lay down the kitchen knife in his hand and unhurriedly opened the entrance to the store. Reflected in his eyes was Ouyang Xiaoyi who was wearing a pink jacket. Her vivid, large eyes were blinking as she looked at Bu Fang.

"Xiaoyi? Why are you here so early today?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked. He thought, "Doesn't she normally arrive after Fatty Jin and the rest have finished eating?"

Xiaoyi was slightly out of breath, as if she had jogged all the way there. Her delicate face was faintly rosy and the tip of her nose had turned slightly red from the cold weather, increasing her adorableness.

"Smelly boss, His Highness big brother is leaving the imperial city and setting off today. Let's go and send him off," Ouyang Xiaoyi expectantly said.

Bu Fang went into a daze. He seemed to remember that Ji Chengxue mentioned something about leaving the imperial city and going on a campaign against the sects outside the border.

When Bu Fang recalled Ji Chengxue had been patronizing his business all this time, he thought that he should at least send him off. So, he did not reject Ouyang Xiaoyi but nodded instead.

"Wait for me," Bu Fang simply said as he turned around and went into the store. After a while, he took out a piece of wooden board.

On the wooden board was written: Business is suspended today.

After hanging the wooden board on the door, Bu Fang squatted down and stroked Blacky's supple and immaculate fur. He closed up the entrance of the store and left with Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Bu Fang was wearing a cashmere overcoat that was tightly wrapped around his body and a dark gray scarf that was coiled around his neck to prevent the cold wind from slipping down his back.

Ouyang Xiaoyi did not expect Bu Fang would readily agree to her invitation. She was originally just giving it a try when she came to

inquire Bu Fang and was prepared to be rejected... However, results were often outside of people's expectations.

The two of them walked toward the entrance of the alleyway. Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu, the two good-looking siblings were standing nearby. Xiao Xanyu's face was covered with a veil and her impeccable appearance could not be seen. Her aura was refined and outstanding, as if a goddess had descended.

Her injuries had already mostly recovered and basically did not hinder her movements. When Xiao Xiaolong noticed Bu Fang and Ouyang Xiaoyi, he began waving his arms from a distance.

The two siblings were wearing white fur overcoats that fully revealed their dignified aura. When matched with their immaculate appearances, they provided a beautiful scenery on the street.

"Owner Bu, you actually agreed to come with us to send off His Highness?!" Xiao Xiaolong stared at Bu Fang in amazement with an incredulous expression.

Previously, when Ouyang Xiaoyi said that she wanted to invite Bu Fang, he thought that Bu Fang would definitely not agree, due to his cold personality. However, reality viciously slapped his face.

"Why? Is it strange?" Bu Fang simply said as he expressionlessly looked at Xiao Xiaolong.

Xiao Xiaolong immediately laughed in an awkward manner and no longer said anything. Xiao Yanyu, who was standing next to him, looked toward Bu Fang. After a long while, she slightly bowed and gently said, "Thank you for saving me..."

Bu Fang nodded and it suddenly became quiet between the four of them. Then, they left the alleyway and headed toward the main streets of the imperial city.

The early morning wind was slightly bone-chilling. Bu Fang tightened the scarf coiled around his neck as he curiously looked around. He rarely left the store and his impression of the imperial city was quite vague. Even though he had stayed within the imperial city for almost two months, he was still unfamiliar with the streets.

On the sides of the street, as the sky gradually became brighter, the stall hawkers began to show up. They were curled up in the cold wind as they yelled to attract customers while water vapor came out from their mouths.

On both sides of the street, there were also drowsy shop assistants that were yawning as they opened up for business. After resting for a night, the imperial city was gradually waking up in the morning light.

Bu Fang did not conceal his curiosity, while Ouyang Xiaoyi cheerfully introduced the surrounding things and buildings to Bu Fang.

"Is that the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant? The so-called number one restaurant in the imperial city?" Bu Fang suddenly said as he pointed toward a beautifully renovated three-floor building.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and the others went into a daze for a moment and then nodded.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pointed toward the flamboyant "Immortal Phoenix Restaurant" above the entrance and charmingly said, "Smelly boss, those three characters were written by the emperor grandpa!"

As Bu Fang looked, he discovered that the three characters were indeed filled with connotation. The emperor's calligraphy was still very good, unfortunately... If the system had not rejected, he might have agreed to the emperor's request at that moment.

Because he wanted to quickly get a signboard for the store as well.

"Abrupt mission: my host, please taste the thirteen dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, assess their merits and drawbacks, and find out three inadequate points of each dish by today."

(People who succeed need to cover their weaknesses with their strengths. Young man, use your fussy tongue to find fault at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.)

Mission reward: Ten percent of true energy cultivation progression, advanced cooking method of a dish from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Just as Bu Fang was sizing up the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, a solemn voice rang out in his mind, causing him to space out on the spot.

He thought, "Another abrupt mission? This time, I'll have to find fault using my tongue?"

"Fine... This mission definitely seems like something the system would give. However, covering weaknesses with strengths is not wrong."

Even though Bu Fang had the help of the system, isolation was not helpful to his growth as someone aimed to become the God of Cooking.

Furthermore, the rewards of the abrupt mission this time, ten percent of true energy cultivation progression and the cooking method of a new dish, were quite alluring to Bu Fang...

If he increased another ten percent of true energy cultivation progression, he would soon be able to become a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. When that time came, the system would level up and unlock more functions.

"Smelly boss, what are you spacing out for? We need to hurry up, otherwise we won't make it for His Highness big brother's sending off," Ouyang Xiaoyi said as she tugged on Bu Fang's cashmere overcoat.

Bu Fang turned his attention back to them and nodded. He meaningfully glanced at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant once more, then followed their pace as they went down the wide main roads of the imperial city.

Soon, the four of them reached the city gate. On both sides of the gate, a row of soldiers wearing metal armor were standing there. Their expressions were solemn and they were giving off a somber aura.

Outside of the city walls, an army was orderly lined up in a formation. These troops were all soldiers of the third prince and his protection during the campaign against the sects.

Ji Chengxue was not wearing a refined white robe that day, but a military uniform with a metal armor and helmet. His handsome face was not gentle as usual, but filled with a cold sternness.

"Thank you for sending me off, Owner Bu. I feel honored." When Ji Chengxue noticed that Bu Fang actually appeared to send him off as well, he was feeling slightly surprised and warmth.

"Your Highness, you must take care of your body during the campaign. Your body is more important than anything else. Remember, you're still a prince!" Xiao Meng solemnly exhorted.

A campaign against the sects from outside of the border was not a joke and was extremely dangerous. A single mistake could cause the entire army to be annihilated. After all, the members of the sects from outside of the border were all experts. Even though the soldiers of the empire were strong, a powerful dragon could not suppress a snake in its lair. Even Emperor Changfeng was unable to completely annihilate these sects despite spending so many years battling them.

Ji Chengxue nodded as he mounted a dark brown unicorn and grabbed its reins. He looked toward the direction of the majestic imperial palace. In his eyes, neither happiness nor sadness could be seen.

The orderly army slowly moved and gradually left the imperial city. They slowly disappeared in the horizon...

Once Ji Chengxue's figure had disappeared, Ouyang Xiaoyi turned around and said to Bu Fang, "Smelly boss, now that we've sent off His Highness, are we going back to the store to open for business?"

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong looked toward their direction at the same time. If Bu Fang was going back to open the store, they would follow along as well. To be able to eat Bu Fang's dishes everyday was also a kind happiness.

However, Bu Fang expressionlessly shook his head and looked toward the direction of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The

corner of his mouth rigidly curled up.

"Let's eat at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant today and find out how the food from the number one restaurant in the imperial city tastes like..."

Chapter 68: I Want My Capacity... To Be Larger

"Eh? Ah! Owner Bu... You want to eat at Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" When Xiao Xiaolong heard Bu Fang's words, his eyes immediately widened and his expression became a little strange.

Xiao Yanyu and Ouyang Xiaoyi could not understand either. From their point of view, Bu Fang's culinary skills completely trounced the chefs of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. What was he planning by going there?

"There's naturally a reason that Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was able to become the number one restaurant within the imperial city. Furthermore, this great chef needs to learn as well. The sea can hold waters from a hundred rivers, it's only great... because of its capacity." Bu Fang simply said. He turned around and headed in the direction of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"The sea can hold waters from a hundred rivers, it's only great... because of its capacity." The corner of Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was twitching. He suddenly felt that there's something wrong with Bu Fang on that day.

"Xiaoyi, don't you think there's something strange with Owner Bu today? I feel that he has an impure objective for going to Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!" Xiao Xiaolong moved closer to Ouyang Xiaoyi and whispered in her ear.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was slightly confused as she puzzledly asked,

"Strange? Not at all, what's so strange? You can only improve by learning more. This makes a lot of sense. Grandpa often says this to Xiaoyi as well."

Xiao Xiaolong twitched his mouth as he thought, "Fine, there's no point in talking to you."

The three of them hurriedly followed after Bu Fang and headed toward the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

With regards to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, Xiao Xiaolong and the others were naturally familiar with it. Before Bu Fang's store appeared, the place they went the most was the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. It was the number one restaurant within the imperial city after all and the taste of its dishes were definitely worthy to be recognized.

Of course, that was only true when not being compared with Bu Fang's dishes.

"Owner Bu, since you're going to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, then do you know its rules?" Xiao Xiaolong took a few more steps and was walking alongside of Bu Fang.

"Rules? What sort of rules?" Bu Fang was slightly puzzled as he turned his head and looked at Xiao Xiaolong.

The corner of Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was twitching. He knew it. He was sure that Bu Fang's decision to go to Immortal Phoenix was

made on the spur of the moment. However, even though he was dumbfounded, he still educated Bu Fang about certain things.

"As the number one restaurant within the imperial city, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant has three floors. The quality of the furnishing and attendants are different for each floor. The first floor is the general area for ordinary customers and the price of the dishes are not high. People from families that are slightly well-off can dine there a few times per month.

"The second floor is the distinguished guests area. The Immortal Phoenix Restaurant put in a little effort on the furnishing. The attendant is also changed from a male waiter to a pretty waitress in a brocade dress. Just based on the service quality, it's already one of the best among the imperial city and even the entire empire. Furthermore, the dishes on the second floor are far more expensive than the first floor and the taste is much better as well.

"The third floor is the supreme area. All of the services are top-notch. Be it the furnishing or the attendants, it's undoubtedly number one within the imperial city. Only those with a distinguished status can step onto this floor."

Xiao Xiaolong explained to Bu Fang. He introduced the different operating styles of the three floors.

After hearing his explanation, Bu Fang narrowed his eyes and nodded. The owner of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant had some brains after all. By having different operating styles based on floors, it would cause the customers to feel a difference in status and encourage expenditure. Customers from the general area

would choose to go to the distinguished guest area due to the issue with face. On the other hand, customers that had been to the distinguished guest area would be unable to return to the general area due to the fear of losing face. This would increase the profits of the distinguished guest area and their earnings would definitely be bountiful.

"The dishes from the supreme area on the third floor should be the best, right? Are you qualified to enter?" Bu Fang suddenly asked after thinking for a while.

"Since it's the supreme area, only the most respectable people in the Light Wind Empire can enter. The children of court officials like us are not qualified. Some time ago, Sun Qixiang wanted to forcibly enter and was thrown out by a sixth grade Battle-Emperor that was keeping watch," Xiao Xiaolong said.

After hearing his words, Bu Fang began to frown. "Even you're not qualified to enter that supreme area?"

"Only His Majesty, the Minister of the Right, my father, General Ouyang and others with similar statuses can enter," Xiao Xiaolong said while ambiguously mentioning the background of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

While the two of them were chatting, they already reached the beautifully furnished entrance of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"Oh my, isn't this young master Xiao? It's been a while since I've

seen you. Are you here to eat today? Hurry, hurry and come in."

When the four of them reached the entrance, a voluptuous, attractive middle-aged woman approached while swaying her hips as her enchanting voice filled with happiness rang out.

Xiao Xiaolong elegantly smiled and nodded. "It's been a while, elder sister Chun. Your figure has become even more sensual."

The attractive middle-aged woman called elder sister Chun immediately covered her smile and as she laughed, her chest began to lively bounce. Despite the freezing temperature, she was still exposing a snow white area at her chest and did not seem to be bothered by the weather in the slightest.

The attractive middle-aged woman was smiling as she guided them into the interior of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Bu Fang did not say anything. He only glanced at elder sister Chun's body once and indifferently looked away. His expression was solemn as he stepped into the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. Once he entered, he could feel the popularity of the restaurant.

The main hall of the first floor was quite vast and there were tables neatly set up. People were heartily having their meals at each table. From the expressions on their face, it was evident that they were very satisfied with the food.

"Young master Xiao, is there only four of you? Are we going to

the distinguished guest area?" Elder sister Chun's hips were swaying as she guided them. As they walked, she turned around to chat with their group.

"Yes, there's four of us. Elder sister Chun, arrange a table for us." Xiao Xiaolong nodded and was about to reply, when Bu Fang suddenly spoke up and interrupted him.

"Wait, let's eat at the general area first. Arrange a table for us."

"Eh? We're going to eat at the general area?" This time, it was not only Xiao Xiaolong, even Xiao Yanyu and Ouyang Xiaoyi were surprised.

"Yes, of course. You can go ahead to the distinguished guest area if you want. In any case, I'll head there after I've finished eating at the general area," Bu Fang added.

With this, the gaze of Xiao Xiaolong and the others became contemplative. Xiao Yanyu's lips, that were hidden under her veil, were even slightly curled up as she thought, "This Bu Fang... is trying to cause trouble."

"Alright. Elder sister Chun, prepare a table for us at the general area first," Xiao Xiaolong said to elder sister Chun with a smile.

Elder sister Chun's pretty face was filled with suspicions. Her [red phoenix eyes](#) shifted toward Bu Fang and quickly moved away after a single glance. She charmingly said, "Very well, come with me."

Red phoenix eye(丹凤眼) - This is used to describe an eye type where the outer corner inclines upwards. An example of an actress with the red phoenix eye is Liu Yifei (刘亦菲).

Under elder sister Chun's arrangement, they were able to quickly sit down at a vacant table.

Bu Fang was sitting upright as he removed the scarf coiled around his neck and his cashmere overcoat. His expression was solemn as he reached out his finger and brushed it against the surface of the table. An oily sense of feeling instantly emerged and his finger was stained by a jet-black grease.

"The hygiene is poor and affects appetite," Bu Fang coldly evaluated.

Xiao Xiaolong, who had just sat down and was prepared to make an order, suddenly froze and bewilderedly looked at Bu Fang.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Yanyu were blinking as they looked strangely at Bu Fang.

That voluptuous elder sister Chun was extremely embarrassed as she resentfully cursed in her mind, "This is the general area, the hygiene is naturally bad! Why are you so picky when you chose to come to the general area!"

"Give me all of the dishes that you think are first-rate from the general area," Bu Fang expressionlessly said to elder sister Chun

while seated down.

"All of the first-rate dishes? There's ten first-rate dishes in the general area. Each dish costs five hundred silver coins. Are you sure you want all of them?" Elder sister Chun suspiciously looked at Bu Fang.

It was not that she did not trust Bu Fang, as he had arrived with Xiao Xiaolong after all. Xiao Xiaolong was the son of Great General Xiao Meng and would naturally have a lot of money. If the young man in front of her was Xiao Xiaolong's friend, he would naturally be well-off as well. However, if he did not lack money... what was he doing in the general area?

"Elder sister Chun, just serve the dishes. He lacks everything but money," Xiao Xiaolong said to her with a chuckle.

Since Xiao Xiaolong had already spoken, elder sister Chun went to arrange for the dishes to be prepared.

Once elder sister Chun was gone, Xiao Xiaolong made eyes at Bu Fang and said, "Owner Bu, are you planning to try all of the dishes in Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?"

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he indifferently glanced at Xiao Xiaolong and said, "That's right, I am here to find fault and cause trouble today."

Chapter 69: I Give A Poor Rating To... Everything!

"Eh... How could he declare it in such a righteous manner even though he's here to cause trouble? It truly fits Owner Bu's personality."

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were all dumbfounded. They clearly did not understand the reason for Bu Fang to find fault at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"Owner Bu... do you have a grudge against the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" Xiao Yanyu's pleasant voice rang out as she softly asked. Evidently, it was not just Xiao Xiaolong, even someone as intelligent as her could not understand it.

Bu Fang looked toward Xiao Yanyu and his eyes met her bright eyes. "Do I need a reason to find fault with others? I came because I feel like doing it."

"Fine... This reply is impeccable. It was a reply fitting for Owner Bu." Xiao Yanyu thought.

Everyone stopped talking and quietly waited for the dishes to arrive. The general area was very noisy and various odors were drifting in the air. The aroma of poor quality wine and the strange smell of food mixed together and created an unbearable stench.

Even Xiao Xiaolong's eyes were noticeably showing disdain. The

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant might be well-known through the imperial city, but the hygiene within the general area was indeed terrible. The main reason was the high volume of customers, which made it difficult to upkeep the hygiene.

"Your dish is being served!" A voice rang out as a waiter with a white towel hanging on his shoulder carried a dish while slowly approaching.

"Guests, here is your dish, the Braised Lion's Head!" The waiter was smiling as he placed a steaming Braised Lion's Head on Bu Fang's table.

The color of the Braised Lion's Head dipped in red sauce was gorgeous. It exuded fragrance as steam rose from the dish and dispersed in front of their eyes.

"This Braised Lion's Head looks pretty good!" Xiao Xiaolong nodded and said after glancing at the dish.

He picked up his chopsticks and aligned them by lightly tapping them against the table before picking up one of the Lion's Head soaked in red sauce.

Bu Fang expressionlessly picked up his chopsticks as well. He picked up one of the Lion's Head and moved it into his bowl. He first used his chopsticks to poke the Lion's Head to feel its hardness, then moved it closer to his nose and sniffed.

One after another, Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Yanyu took a bite of this Braised Lion's Head as well. The taste was pretty good, since it was one of the top ten signature dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's general area. Even though it could not be compared to Bu Fang's dishes, it was still pretty good when compared to ordinary dishes.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's pretty face became rosy as she satisfiedly finished her Lion's Head within a few bites.

Xiao Xiaolong smacked his lips and drank a mouthful of water. He picked up another Lion's Head and ate it. A plate of Braised Lion's Head only had five meatballs and he ate two of them by himself.

"Owner Bu, you should try this as well. The taste of this Lion's Head is quite good. The chef of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant still has some skills," Xiao Xiaolong said to Bu Fang as he chewed the Lion's Head.

Bu Fang did not reply as he took a small bite. As the sauce entered his mouth, there was a slight astringent taste. After chewing a few times, Bu Fang swallowed and expressionlessly placed his chopsticks down. He did not continue eating.

Bu Fang's actions caused Xiao Yanyu and the others to give him strange looks.

"The sauce of this Braised Lion's Head is too salty. Clearly, too much salt was added. Furthermore, the sugar within the sauce did

not completely dissolve, so it was slightly astringent when I tasted it. Moreover, Lion's Head, also known as Four Happiness Meatballs, is made by precisely kneading seventy percent of the lean meat and thirty percent of fatty meat into a meatball. In addition, the lean meat must be manually minced into fine bits and the fatty meat must not be too greasy. From the fact that the shredded meat are still sticking together, you can tell that the lean meat used in this dish was clearly not minced into fine bits. The fatty meat used is also too greasy, which affects the taste. I give a poor rating."

Bu Fang lightly exhaled and simply said. As Xiao Xiaolong and the others speechlessly stared at him, he spoke a lot of words and criticized the dish of Braised Lion's Head to the point where it sounded completely worthless.

Xiao Xiaolong was flabbergasted as his chopsticks fell from his hands and onto the table. After hearing Bu Fang's assessment, the Lion's Head did not seem as delicious when he took another look at it. He had no idea that the meatballs had that many flaws.

He originally still had some appetite, but now, his desire to continue eating disappeared. He spat out the half-eaten Lion's Head back into his bowl.

"Owner Bu... He really is here to cause trouble. The general area's signature dish was actually criticized to such a miserable state. However, with his culinary skills, the rating should be quite accurate," Xiao Xiaolong thought.

The second dish, a plate of Steamed Fish, was served. A fresh

aroma was continuously exuding from the fish, along with a warm steam.

The appearance of the Steamed Fish was extremely well preserved. There were a few cuts made on the body of the fish. As the flesh of the fish became cooked after steaming, these cuts would be forced open and reveal the tender flesh inside. A light colored fish soup was resting within the plate and surrounding the Steamed Fish.

This time, none of the others touched their chopsticks. They were staring at Bu Fang as they waited for him to give a rating first.

Bu Fang nodded and picked up his chopsticks. He first used his chopsticks to lightly press down on the gills of the fish. A slight rebound force came from his chopsticks, causing Bu Fang to nod. He thought, "It looks like the control over the heat when cooking this Steamed Fish was done pretty well."

He dipped the tip of his chopsticks into the fish soup and placed it into his mouth. There was a faint trace of salty fishiness, but just this little bit of fishiness caused Bu Fang's expression to instantly become unpleasant.

"Ptui!" Bu Fang lightly spat while facing away from the table, then drank a mouthful of water to wash away the fishiness in his mouth.

"Even the basic fishiness of the fish was not removed. There's no

point in trying, the flesh of the fish definitely contains fishiness." Bu Fang's expression was extremely unpleasant and his tone was even slightly cold as he gave his assessment.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were surprised once more. Bu Fang had already judged the dish as a failure before he even tasted the fish... Xiao Xiaolong did not blindly believe him and used his chopsticks to put a piece of fish into his mouth.

The taste was actually still pretty good. The fishiness that Bu Fang mentioned was present but not that strong. Even though it was still there, it was still tolerable.

"Culinary is particular about rigorousness. Any oversight or mistake will affect the taste of the food! Fishiness should not be present in the first place. Since it's present, then it's a failure," Bu Fang mercilessly criticized.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others nodded without fully understanding his words. A few moments later, the waiter was serving a few other dishes. However, when he saw the mostly intact dishes on the table, he was slightly startled.

Some of the dishes were almost untouched while some were only slightly disturbed. However, as a whole, the dishes on the customer's table were only tasted once and left unfinished.

This was something completely unbelievable at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The food cooked by the chefs of the restaurant had subdued the stomachs on innumerable people!

As the waiter was bringing out the last dish for Bu Fang's table, he informed elder sister Chun about the weird situation at the table and she was startled as well. She had a doubtful expression as she carried the final dish to Bu Fang's table.

When Elder sister Chun arrived at the table and saw the table filled with practically untouched dishes, her pupils slightly constricted as she asked, "Oh my, young master Xiao, why aren't you eating? Are the dishes not to your liking?"

Bu Fang's mood was currently not good. The fact that he was unable to taste a good dish was naturally affecting his mood as well.

Xiao Xiaolong helplessly pointed at Bu Fang and said, "This young master Bu said that your dishes were cooked... too poorly, that they're completely inedible."

"What? Young master Xiao must be joking. Everyone in the imperial city knows how well the dishes from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant tastes like. Even though this is the general area, even the dishes here are comparable to the signature dishes of other big restaurants!" Elder sister Chun chuckled and waved her hand.

Her gaze landed on Bu Fang and her expression became unpleasant.

Bu Fang ignored her and used his chopsticks to eat the final dish.

After having a single bite, Bu Fang put down his chopsticks. He shook his head and simply said, "For this Stir-Fried Shrimps with Bamboo Shoot, the bamboo shoots chosen are overripe, and some of them are too bitter and difficult to chew. There's a difference in quality in the shrimps used as well. Some of them are live prawns while the others are dead prawns. The difference between the taste is too strong. I give a poor rating."

After hearing Bu Fang's assessment, elder sister Chun went into a daze. Then, she was so exasperated that her chest began to heave. She thought, "This zombie face is really here to cause trouble! He actually dares to criticize the signature dish of the general area as worthless! Who is he to evaluate us like this?!"

Elder sister Chun massaged her bulging chest and coldly glanced at Bu Fang, saying, "Looks like you're a chef as well? Since you're a chef, you should understand... Who are you to evaluate the dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!"

Chapter 70: Pan-Fried Flower Crab, I Give A Poor Rating!

Elder sister Chun was furious. Xiao Xiaolong's friend was clearly there to find fault. The general area's dishes might not be cooked by their top chef, but it was not possible for them to be as dreadful as he described.

Meanwhile, Xiao Xiaolong and the others were looking at elder sister Chun with weird expressions on their faces. They thought, "Bu Fang does not have the qualifications to criticize Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes? That's the biggest joke in the world. Even the emperor was subdued by Bu Fang's dishes, what right does the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant have to be so arrogant?"

Elder sister Chun's words were very arrogant, but she had the qualification to be arrogant. She was very confident in the chefs of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. There was basically no other restaurant in the Light Wind Empire that was better than them. The chefs they hired were the best in the entire empire.

The mocking gaze from Xiao Xiaolong and the others was making elder sister Chun feel slightly uncomfortable. Her pretty face slightly frowned as she asked, "Are my words incorrect?"

Xiao Xiaolong and the others chuckled and lightly shook their heads without speaking, while Bu Fang was expressionless as he glanced at her.

His glance was as if he was looking at a clown.

Bu Fang stood up and glanced at elder sister Chun. He placed some gold coins on the table and simply said, "Bring me to the second floor. All of the dishes on the first floor... I give a poor rating."

"You..." Elder sister Chun was exasperated. She thought, "Why is this person so arrogant! Who does he think he is? Who is he to criticize the dishes made by the chefs of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?!"

When Xiao Xiaolong and the others saw that Bu Fang was going to the second floor, their eyes immediately lit up and they stood up as well.

Xiao Xiaolong smiled as he moved next to elder sister Chun and said, "Elder sister Chun, don't be angry. This friend of mine has a personality just like that. Bring us to the second floor. The second floor's dishes are incomparable to the first floor's. When that time comes, my friend might not give such an assessment."

"Fine! I want to see whether this arrogant brat would still be this conceited upstairs!" Elder sister Chun tenderly snorted as she turned around and led the way while swaying her hips.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others carefreely smiled as they followed after her.

The space on the second floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was much narrower than the first floor. When Bu Fang

and the others made their way onto the second floor, they could feel a different atmosphere with their bodies.

Unlike the clamorous first floor, the second floor was extremely quiet and harmonious. The furnishing was very gorgeous and exquisite, and there were many spirit herbs placed in the surroundings that constantly released fresh air. There were some customers seated at their tables, eating their food in a refined manner.

Elder sister Chun led them toward an empty table while swaying her body. Her expression was unpleasant as she coldly said to Bu Fang, "Look at the menu, what do you want to eat!"

Bu Fang received the menu. There were around twenty dishes written on it and every single dish was very expensive. Even though it was nothing compared to Fang Fang's Little Store, the price was already unattainable for the ordinary populace.

Bu Fang only took a single glance before he placed the menu on the table and simply said, "Give me all of the dishes that you think are the best on the second floor."

"Hmm?" Elder sister Chun's pupils constricted as she coldly looked at Bu Fang. She thought, "From his tone, this brat is still trying to find fault with our dishes? He's on the second floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and he still dares to find fault?"

"Very well! I'll let you experience the dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!" Elder sister Chun angrily snorted as she

turned around and left to make arrangements for the preparation of the dishes.

Only after elder sister Chun left, Xiao Xiaolong softly asked Bu Fang, "Owner Bu... Are you really preparing to criticize all of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes today?"

"Is this really a wise thing to do? After all, harmony breeds prosperity."

Bu Fang slightly frowned and glanced at Xiao Xiaolong. He simply said, "They should be grateful that I am pointing out their inadequacies."

Ouyang Xiaoyi could not help but burst out laughing. Owner Bu's earnest appearance while speaking nonsense was simply too funny for her.

Xiao Yanyu was covering her mouth as she chuckled as well. A trace of captivating redness appeared on her beautiful face.

On the other hand, Bu Fang was extremely puzzled. He was speaking the truth. The assessment he gave pointed out the fatal flaws of the dishes. If they made revisions based on these flaws, the taste of these dishes would at least improve by a single grade.

After a while, the fragrance of a dish drifted toward them.

Elder sister Chun's hips were swaying as she leisurely approached

while bringing the dish. She was carrying a large plate with flower crabs that exuded a rich fragrance. These flower crabs were split into halves and erected on the plate. From a distance, it looked dazzling and glorious.

"This is a very well-known dish of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's distinguished area, the Pan-Fried Flower Crab." Elder sister Chun provocatively looked at Bu Fang after placing the dish onto the table.

Xiao Xiaolong was feeling slightly unable to restrain himself as he breathed in the aroma of the flower crab. Previously, when he came to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, he would definitely order this dish.

He moved one of the flower crabs into his bowl and eagerly removed the shell before he heartily started eating.

Bu Fang also helped himself to one half of a flower crab. The color of the flower crab was well-controlled. The red-colored shell and also the fragrance that exuded after it was pan-fried were quite tantalizing.

Grabbing a single chopstick, Bu Fang pried open the shell of the flower crab and the fragrant crab meat was exposed in front of him. That white and tender crab meat was giving off a faint heat, and when supplemented by the red shell, made it even more inviting.

Bu Fang did not immediately touch the crab meat. He used his

chopstick to scoop off some of the crab butter from the shell. The crab butter was amber in color and very enticing. Even though the fragrance was not that strong, it was still the essence of a crab.

"Hmm?" After Bu Fang tasted the crab butter that remained on the shell, he began to frown and did not say anything. Then, he took a bite of the tender and fragrant crab meat and his expression was still solemn.

After tasting both the crab butter and crab meat, Bu Fang put the flower crab down and did not say anything.

"What's wrong? Can't point out any flaws? The dishes on the first floor are prepared for ordinary commoners and you would definitely be able to point out the flaws. However, now that you're on the second floor, the dishes here are prepared for the distinguished guests, the prestigious people within the imperial city. Can you still point out the flaws?"

When elder sister Chun saw that Bu Fang was not speaking, she immediately began to mock and ridicule him.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were also startled as they puzzledly looked at Bu Fang. However, according to their understanding of Bu Fang, he would definitely not give up such a chance to put down others.

Bu Fang glanced at the jubilant elder sister Chun, then pursed his lips and simply said, "It's not that I can't say anything, it's that I am speechless. Is this really a signature dish from the second floor of

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?

"Leaving aside how the flower crab was cooked, the choice of the flower crab itself was a stain on this dish. The most important aspect of Pan-Fried Flower Crab is the selection of the flower crab. This flower crab's meat is not tender enough and it's as tasteless as water. Just from looking, I can tell that this crab was artificially bred. The texture of the meat feels empty and the taste is much worse than wild flower crabs. Furthermore, there's also the problem with the pan-frying process. The control over the heat was not done properly and as a result, the crab butter lost its fragrance and taste due to overcooking. Overall, I give a poor rating."

It was not that Bu Fang could not say it, but he was lazy to say it. When he first smelled this dish of Pan-Fried Flower Crab, he was feeling slightly expectant. However, once he tasted it, that expectation sharply fell. Saying that it fell from the sky into an abyss would not be an exaggeration.

Elder sister Chun went into a daze. Xiao Xiaolong and the others went into a daze as well. So... this dish had so many flaws! They could not tell at all!

"Hmph! Who doesn't know how to talk nonsense! Who knows whether your comments are correct!" Elder sister Chun started to sneer.

Bu Fang indifferent glanced at her and looked away. "It's up to you whether you believe it or not. Hurry up and serve the other dishes. I've already lost my patience with your dishes."

That was right, whether she believed or not did not matter to Bu Fang. He was only there to complete the system mission and not to educate elder sister Chun.

"Elder sister Chun, what happened? What's the reason for the dispute?"

Just when elder sister Chun's chest was heaving from exasperation, a slim figure slowly approached and started to speak.

When elder sister Chun saw the person who approached, her eyes lit up as she said, "Owner Qian, hurry up and come over. This fellow is saying that our restaurant's dishes are not cooked properly!"

Chapter 71: Dry-Fried Rock Carp

Qian Bao, who was wearing a brocade robe, was walking with his hands placed at his waist with his belly thrust out, exposing his belt embedded with dazzling jadeite. The reason he walked in this manner was to feel the envious gaze from others when they looked at his belt, in order to satisfy his vanity.

"Who would be so conceited as to dare say that the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes are not delicious?" Qian Bao was instantly displeased when he heard that someone said the restaurant's food tasted bad.

When he stopped next to elder sister Chun and followed her gaze, he saw Xiao Xiaolong and the others.

"Oh, isn't this our imperial city's prodigy, young master Xiao? It's been a while since you've patronized our restaurant. Oh my, goddess Yanyu and princess Ouyang are here as well. Excuse me for not welcoming you earlier. Eh? This is..."

Qian Bao knew how to conduct himself, or in other words, he knew how to do business. He was excellent when dealing with people. In simpler terms, he was a sly person. Hence, he was able to build up a small restaurant from nothing into Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's current scale.

Obviously, there were many people behind his success. However, Qian Bao's own effort and talent definitely played a part as well.

"You can address him as young master Bu," Xiao Xiaolong smiled as he introduced Bu Fang. He did not dare to announce Bu Fang's name. The black-hearted restaurant was renowned within the imperial city recently and had already become the biggest competitor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. If he chose to announce Bu Fang's name at that very moment, there was no guarantee that Qian Bao would not erase Bu Fang.

"Young master Bu?" Qian Bao thought as he tried to search his memories. However, he did not recall any notable families with the surname Bu.

However, Qian Bao still smiled as he performed a fist and palm salute to Bu Fang and said, "I see, you're actually young master Bu. I've heard much about you. Are our dishes not to your liking?"

"It's not that they're not to my liking. It's that they're badly cooked. I give a poor rating," Bu Fang expressionlessly said in a serious manner.

"They're badly cooked?" Qian Bao was slightly dumbfounded as he looked at Bu Fang's serious expression. It had been a while since he met someone that dared to find fault at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

When Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was first built, people from other restaurants would come over to find fault with their food. At that time, there were indeed flaws in their dishes. However, at the moment... As the restaurant expanded, they spent lots of money to hire chefs from all over Light Wind Empire and each of the chef had their own signature dish. This eventually created the

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's current reputation.

"Young master Bu, you must be joking. You can ask anyone from within the imperial city. Who would dare to say that the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes are not delicious?" Qian Bao said with a smile on his face. However, the words he said were filled with arrogance.

"If it's not delicious, it's not delicious. These dishes were badly cooked. You can serve any dish and I can point out the flaws to you," Bu Fang simply said. He could not be bothered to argue with Qian Bao.

Bu Fang's words caused Qian Bao to slightly narrow his eyes as he thought, "This brat is truly arrogant. He actually dared to speak such nonsense? Does he really have so much confidence?"

"Very well! Since young master Bu insists, I'll serve up a dish and let the chef have a face to face confrontation. If you're able to convince my chef, I'll admit it," Qian Bao simply said as the smile disappeared from his face.

"Are they really going to have a face to face confrontation?" Xiao Xiaolong and the others were startled for a moment and then they became extremely excited. Qian Bao might not know the identity of Bu Fang, but they knew him well. Since Bu Fang dared to say those words, then he would obviously be certain since Bu Fang's culinary skills were much stronger than the chefs from the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"No, I don't need your approval. How about this, let's have a wager. If the flaws that I point out can convince your chef, you'll let me go to the third floor. On the other hand, if I lose, I'll compensate with a hundred times the price of these dishes. How about it?" Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Everyone sucked in a breath of cold air. "A hundred times the price as compensation, this Owner Bu is truly prosperous! With so many dishes, the total cost had already exceeded five hundred gold coins. With hundred times the price... that's at least fifty thousand gold coins!"

Even Qian Bao's heart skipped a beat when he heard the wager. His gaze when he looked at Bu Fang no longer contained any trace of belittlement.

How could the identity of someone who dared to use fifty thousand gold coins as a wager be that simple? Furthermore, he was accompanied by Xiao Xiaolong, the son of a court official. Clearly, his background was not simple.

Was the objective of the other party to enter the third floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant? Was his desire to taste the dishes of the third floor? Could he be planning to find fault on the third floor?

Within that instant, Qian Bao thought of many things. Finally, his eyes narrowed as he said, "Very well! I agree!"

Bu Fang nodded and signaled Qian Bao to choose any dish as he

wished.

Qian Bao placed his hands behind his back as he said, "Elder sister Chun, get someone to serve the signature dish of the second floor, the Dry-Fried Rock Carp!"

When elder sister Chun heard Qian Bao's words, her eyes immediately lit up. She thought, "As expected of the owner! With this dish, let's see whether this brat can still find any fault!"

The Dry-Fried Rock Carp was the best dish within the second floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. It was originally supposed to be promoted to the third floor. However, since the owner decided that the third floor would only have three dishes, the Dry-Fried Rock Carp was eventually bumped off.

However, be it the taste or the appearance, the Dry-Fried Rock Carp was qualified enough to enter the third floor!

"Young master Bu, please have a seat and wait a moment," Qian Bao said while smiling. He beckoned Xiao Xiaolong and the others to sit down and wait for the dish to arrive.

Bu Fang did not say anything as he sat down on his seat and quietly waited for the Dry-Fried Rock Carp that Qian Bao mentioned.

Meanwhile, Qian Bao was happily chatting with Xiao Xiaolong and the others.

After a while, they could smell a rich fragrance wafting in the air, causing many of the customers on the second floor to look around for the source.

Elder sister Chun was approaching while carrying a large plate and a large amount of steam was rising from it. This time, she did not even dare to swing her voluptuous hips, fearing that she would spill the dish.

An obese man wearing a chef's uniform was following behind elder sister Chun with a prideful expression.

"The Dry-Fried Rock Carp is here, please enjoy your meal," elder sister Chun charmingly said as she bent and placed the dish onto the table.

"Owner Qian, I heard someone is here to find fault. I came over to see whether this fellow can point out any flaws regarding my dish!" The obese man walked toward Qian Bao and loudly said.

Bu Fang glanced at the obese man and that obese man turned to face him as if he felt something. The muscles on his face were quivering.

"Are you the brat that came here to find fault?" The obese man's perception was quite accurate as he glared at Bu Fang and said.

"Master Chen, this is young master Bu. Don't try to scare him,"

Qian Bao said while smiling.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he shifted his gaze away from the obese man and toward the Dry-Fried Rock Carp.

The color was bright and eye-catching, with a mixture of gold and red. A layer of thick sauce which contained many ingredients was releasing a sweet aroma. The fish which underwent deep-frying was exuding a rich fragrance that aroused his appetite.

Just based on the appearance alone, this dish was not bad.

Bu Fang picked up his chopsticks, while everyone looked on, he dipped it within the sauce and then placed it into his mouth.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others held their breath as they fixedly stared at Bu Fang. Master Chen and Qian Bao also swallowed their saliva as they looked at Bu Fang.

After Bu Fang tasted the sauce, he picked up a piece of the fish and placed it into his mouth. After savoring it, he put down his chopsticks.

From the beginning to the end, there was not even a slightest expression on Bu Fang's face. No one could figure out what he was thinking.

Suddenly, the mood became heavy and everyone held their breath.

Chapter 72: The Roasted Flower Duck That Wishes To Ascend

"Young master Bu... how is the taste?"

After a while, Bu Fang was still not saying anything. Xiao Xiaolong and the others were slightly unable to bear it any longer, while Qian Bao had already impatiently opened his mouth and inquired. His eyes were fixedly staring at Bu Fang.

Master Chen folded his arms across his chest as he calmly looked on. This dish of Dry-Fried Rock Carp was his speciality. He had been cooking the dish for dozens of years and his familiarity with it had already reached a peak. Within his heart, it was already perfect.

Bu Fang lightly breathed out as he lifted up the cup of water from the table and drank a mouthful. Only then did his gaze shifted toward the others.

He indifferently opened his mouth and gave his assessment, "Compared to those dishes previously that were filled with mistakes, this dish of Dry-Fried Rock Carp can be said to be one grade higher."

Bu Fang's words instantly caused everyone to relax and Xiao Xiaolong and the others were smiling as well.

"Owner Bu actually praised this dish. Looks like the taste of this

dish should be pretty good. Then we should definitely give it a try."

While thinking like this in his mind, Xiao Xiaolong immediately picked up a piece of fish with his chopsticks and put it into his mouth. The savory taste of fish suddenly erupted within his mouth. The faint spiciness that spread within his mouth caused his eyes to suddenly lit up.

Xiao Xiaolong nodded and said with a smile, "This dish is indeed pretty good. It's much more delicious than the previous ones."

When Qian Bao heard those words, his eyes immediately narrowed and he could not conceal the smile on his face. Since they were all praising this dish, from his point of view, he should have won.

To be able to easily earn fifty thousand gold coins, Qian Bao's mood was feeling joyous and delighted.

"Young master Bu, if that's the case, this time... it's my victory?" Qian Bao said with a chuckle.

However, Bu Fang's reaction caused his heart to skip a beat. Bu Fang strangely glanced at him and a faint smile appeared on his face.

"I was only praising the taste of this dish. Compared to the previous dishes, this dish is indeed not bad. However, it's only not bad, but the flaws are still present."

"Hmm?" Everyone was stunned by his words.

Their gazes once again focused on Bu Fang. They did not expect such a sudden change of events from him.

"There are three steps to the cooking process of this Dry-Fried Rock Carp, right? Firstly, place the processed rock carp into a wok of oil and deep-fry until the skin wrinkles. Secondly, stir-fry the other ingredients. Thirdly, place the deep-fried rock carp and the fried ingredients into the wok and dry-fry them together."

Bu Fang slowly said. Master Chen's pupils slightly constricted because Bu Fang's analysis were exactly the same as his own cooking steps!

"Hmph! So what? Those are only the general steps. There are many meticulous processes in each step as well. Those are the important points when cooking this dish," Master Chen sneered as he confidently said.

Bu Fang nodded and pointed toward the Dry-Fried Rock Carp and said, "That's right, then I shall point out your inadequacies from the details aspect. Firstly, when you're processing the rock carp, you made cuts on both sides of the fish. You made two cuts on each side, right? This is your first inadequacy. You should've made the cuts based on the length and width of the fish. According to the length of this fish, making three cuts would be the best, with two short cuts and one long cut. This would allow the fish to completely absorb the flavor during the deep-fry and dry-fry

process."

Master Chen frowned. He had always made two cuts regardless of the size of the rock carp. He was already used to it and had never thought whether three cuts would be better.

"As for how deep the cuts should be, I don't think there's any need for me to say it. Next would be the deep-frying period. Due to the problem with the cuts, the deep-frying process was longer which caused the fish to age. This resulted in the rock carp losing its tenderness... The stir-frying of the other ingredients wasn't bad since no skills were needed. Lastly, it's the problem with the dry-frying. The dry-frying time was short by a few breaths. The broth was not thick enough and the fish had not sufficiently absorbed the flavor."

Bu Fang simply said. However, his words had already caused Master Chen to be dumbfounded. At first, Master Chen was going to retort, but when he thought about Bu Fang's words, he realized that cooking in this manner might be better.

Gulp.

Master Chen swallowed his saliva. His chubby face was filled with sweat and his eyes were filled with incredulity. He thought, "Is this fellow a monster? How could he analyze so much flaws with this dish just from tasting it?!"

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were astounded as well. "Owner Bu... How amazing! He only tasted it once and was able to cause the

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's chef to be speechless."

"Ma... Master Chen... Is what he said correct?" Qian Bao's current expression was already slightly unpleasant as he asked Master Chen who was having cold sweats.

Elder sister Chun who was standing nearby was completely stunned. She did not think that this young master Bu was actually this powerful, that he could cause Master Chen to have cold sweats with a few words.

"Owner Qian... What young master Bu said is indeed correct. I've been cooking Dry-Fried Rock Carp for dozens of years and I understand very well how each step would affect the taste... What young master Bu said were aspects that I've never thought of all these years," Master Chen calmly accepted Bu Fang's advice as he sighed and said to Qian Bao.

Qian Bao went into a daze. The fifty thousand gold coins... were suddenly gone!

Bu Fang glanced at the stupefied Qian Bao, then stood up and expressionlessly walked away.

"Xiaoyi, follow me. We're going to the third floor."

"Ah... Eh? Wait for us!" Xiao Xiaolong and the others were immediately awoken from their astonishment. They hurriedly followed after Bu Fang.

Qian Bao had also recovered from his stupor and his expression was slightly unpleasant. He clenched his teeth and followed after Bu Fang as well.

Qian Bao brought the four of them to the third floor. This was the most honorable floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and was ordinarily not opened to the public.

"Young master Bu, please!"

Qian Bao had become serious as well. The previous scene had already made known that Bu Fang was not speaking nonsense and was someone with capabilities.

The surroundings of the third floor was indeed much better than the second floor. Just from entering, they could feel the dense amount of spirit energy drifting in the air. Qian Bao actually spent a huge amount of money to set up a magic formation that gathered spirit energy on the third floor!

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were utterly speechless. They had never been to the third floor and were finally able to enter due to Bu Fang. They were instantly overwhelmed by the novelty.

"Young master Bu, please have a seat. I'll get someone to serve the dishes! The third floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant has only three dishes," Qian Bao said.

Bu Fang nodded. He sat down at an eight-immortal table made from red sandalwood and quietly waited for the dishes to arrive.

With a grave expression, Qian Bao left the third floor and went to instruct people to prepare the dishes.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were curiously looking around. When facing novelties, most people would be filled with curiosity.

However, Bu Fang was sitting there without moving. His eyes were closed as he waited for the dishes to arrive.

After approximately half an hour, Qian Bao returned. A servant girl with a voluptuous body was following behind him. She was wearing a dress which barely covered her beautiful legs.

"Young master Bu, this is the supreme area's first dish, the Braised Spirit Pork."

Bu Fang nodded. His gaze fell on the large porcelain plate in front of them. There was a piece of scarlet and alluring pork placed on the plate, which was exuding a rich fragrance. The first impression he had was that it was fat but not greasy, and seemed exquisite and beautiful like a red jadeite.

"This is the supreme area's second dish, Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs!"

It was another beautiful and voluptuous servant girl carrying a

dish. She placed it in front of Bu Fang and removed the lid. The tangerine-colored Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs was reflected in his eyes.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows. He looked at the dish with interest as the corner of his mouth widened into a smile. Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs?

"The third dish, which is also our supreme dish, the Colored-Glass Roasted Flower Duck!"

When Qian Bao announced the last dish, his tone became much more confident and he became extremely proud. He was subconsciously revealing his confidence in this last dish.

Bu Fang narrowed his eyes as he looked at the self-confident duck with a body that seemed like colored-glass as it loftily stood on the plate. Its wing were slightly spread apart, as if it was going to flap them and fly away, while its neck was curled into a S-shape.

Bu Fang blinked and he could not help but feel puzzled... "Is, is this really a Roasted Flower Duck? Is this really not a roasted duck that wishes to ascend?"

Chapter 73: Whether You Believe Or Not Has Nothing To Do With Me

"Young master Bu, originally, according to the rules, you're not qualified to enter the third floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. That's because up till now, this supreme area has only admitted the court ministers, His Majesty as well as the prince. I've only allowed young master to enter due to your ability to assess dishes. Otherwise, even if you had acted shamelessly, I would never allow you to enter the third floor."

Qian Bao said in a serious manner. He regarded the supreme area as important, which is why he acted prudently.

If the general area and the distinguished guest area were the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's basis for establishing itself within the imperial city, then the supreme area on the third floor would be the basis of its reputation.

Qian Bao was only solemnly regarding Bu Fang since he was able to easily list out the flaws within the cooking process of the Dry-Fried Rock Carp that even Master Chen could not detect.

Bu Fang's assessment of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes as he made his way to the third floor could be considered a huge insult to their reputation. Qian Bao could not let this humiliation live down. He must find a way to save his reputation and the only way was the third floor.

Bu Fang glanced at Qian Bao and expressionlessly said, "If

someone wishes for me to evaluate their dishes, I might not be in the mood to care about it. If it wasn't for special circumstances, I really can't be bothered to taste your garbage dishes."

Bu Fang's tone was extremely indifferent. Even though his words sounded like ridicule, there was no intention to ridicule in the slightest. It was as if he was stating the truth.

Qian Bao suddenly froze for a moment and he was speechless. However, his narrowed eyes as he suddenly laughed and said, "Then would young master Bu please taste these three dishes?"

"These are the top three dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant."

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were blinking as they yearningly looked at the three dishes that had alluring appearances.

The dishes from the supreme area of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant were not something they could normally see. Even though these dishes might not be as delicious as the food in Bu Fang's store, eating at the third floor was not about enjoying the taste of the food. It was about enjoying the identity and status.

Firstly, Bu Fang tasted the first dish, the Braised Spirit Pork. This was a dish made using an ingredient from a spirit beast, although it was only the low-end meat from the first grade spirit beast, Battle Boar. However, the chef's skills were pretty good and the meat was succulent after cooking. It was comparable to the Dry-Fried Rock Carp.

However...

"Since this is the meat from a spirit beast, then the choice of the ingredient should be very prudent. For this dish, choosing the meat from the Battle Boar is the wrong choice. The meat from the Battle Boar is more suited for making stews, while the meat from the Flame Boar is the best choice for braising. Also, the control over the heat during the braising process is still lacking and the braising liquid is... too sweet."

After having a bite of the dish, Bu Fang expressionlessly put down his chopsticks and mercilessly gave his assessment. Suddenly, several flaws of this first-rate cuisine were pointed out by Bu Fang.

Qian Bao was dumbfounded. He hurriedly ordered the servant girl to record down the flaws mentioned by Bu Fang.

Qian Bao was not too surprised that Bu Fang was able to find so many flaws within the Braised Spirit Pork. After all, the level of this dish was almost the same as the Dry-Fried Rock Carp.

"Young master Bu, try this dish as well, Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs," Qian Bao said.

However, the result was beyond his expectations. Bu Fang's assessment of this dish was extremely low and the flaws he found were even more numerous than in the Braised Spirit Pork.

Qian Bao was stunned. He thought, "Why? Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs is definitely slightly more delicious than Braised Spirit Pork..."

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were stifling their smiles. Showing off Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Owner Bu, it was like he was asking for a scolding. From their point of view, Bu Fang's Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was unsurpassable.

Bu Fang ignored Qian Bao as his gaze shifted toward the Roasted Flower Duck that seemed to wish for ascension.

"This food presentation... is slightly interesting." The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched as he used his chopsticks to poke the duck's body. A slight rebound force was transmitted to his hands through the chopsticks.

"Clap clap!" When Qian Bao saw that Bu Fang was about to try the signature dish, Roasted Flower Duck, he suddenly and energetically clapped his hands.

Then, that voluptuous servant girl who was wearing the dress that revealed her legs gracefully walked next to Bu Fang. A burst of fragrance exuded from her body.

Bu Fang frowned as he indifferently said, "Don't get so close to me. The fragrance coming from you is affecting my judgement toward this dish."

"Ah?" That servant was startled and her pretty face was filled with confusion. Her hand that was holding the dagger stopped in mid-air and she seemed a little helpless.

Qian Bao was stunned for a moment and then started to frown. He employed these beautiful servant girls for the sake of attending to those high officials and dignitaries. He even specially spent huge amount of money to buy high grade cosmetic products for these servants girls to become even more lively and charming. He did not think that his methods would negatively affect the customers' appetite instead.

He pondered for a moment and then let the servant girl withdraw. Then he personally held the dagger and began to handle the duck.

Qian Bao evidently had some knowledge of handling this dish. His hands were steady as he quickly sliced off a portion of the meat and served it to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang wrapped the meat within a spring roll wrapper with some cabbage and added a little vinegar. Then, he swallowed the entire thing.

The taste of the duck meat and the cabbage when mixed together was just perfect and created an indescribable texture. When added with the chewiness of the spring roll wrapper, Bu Fang experienced an ineffably delicious taste.

He had to admit that the taste of the Roasted Flower Duck was extremely good.

"Young master Bu, how is the taste of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's signature dish?" Qian Bao licked his lips as he intensely stared at Bu Fang. He was confident that this dish that the emperor praised as the number one duck within the Light Wind Empire would be able to subdue this fellow.

"Hmm, this dish is indeed pretty good," Bu Fang once again sliced off another piece of duck meat. This time, he did not wrap it with the spring roll wrapper and directly ate it.

He was someone that enjoyed delicious food as well. Every single chef was an authentic glutton.

"Then, young master Bu... Could you point out any flaws within this dish?" Qian Bao took a deep breath and said, as he closely stared at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang leisurely drank a mouthful of water and simply said, "This dish can be said to be the most perfect dish within the entire Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The taste is very good.

"I can guess, this dish is made by strictly following the steps of a recipe. Not a single character was missed and every single detail was taken note," Bu Fang said.

Qian Bao's pupils suddenly constricted as he stood up. He was

intensely staring at Bu Fang and the deepest parts of his eyes were filled with incredulity.

That was right! This dish of Colored-glass Roasted Flower Duck was from a recipe that he obtained by chance. It was because of this recipe that he could operate the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant to its current state and obtain the support of that distinguished person.

"You're not wrong by following the steps of the recipe. However, as you're too rigid and lacked a certain flexibility, you overlooked a few important points. You need to understand that every single recipe underwent numerous revisions and attempts before they were recorded. They are not perfect and there's still room for improvement as well. Just like this dish, a mistake appeared in the choice of ingredients."

"The choice of ingredients?"

"That's right, the recipe stated that mature ducks should be used, correct? Furthermore, it should be high quality spirit ducks. However, choosing young ducks is actually better. The skin of the mature ducks is too tight and the flesh is too tough. As for the other flaws, they're not important so I won't mention them," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Qian Bao took a deep breath and calmed himself down. However, his complexion was not very pleasant.

He did not agree with Bu Fang's statement. "Young master Bu,

this dish of Roasted Flower Duck, as the signature dish of our restaurant, has already gone through numerous trials. I do not agree with your argument of cooking with young ducks. I believe even more in the method recorded in the recipe."

Even though Bu Fang's words sounded reasonable, Qian Bao would not easily believe him. After all, it was the signature dish, so how could he lightly make amendments?

Bu Fang indifferently glanced at him and said, "Whether you believe it or not has nothing to do with me. I was only assessing the dish. Alright, I've already assessed all of the dishes. Then, I shall take my leave. This is for my bill."

Bu Fang stood up and placed five crystals on the table. Then, he elegantly headed down the stairs.

Qian Bao's expression was sullen as he stood on the spot. As he looked at the three dishes on the table that were basically untouched, the emotions in his eyes were wavering.

"Young master Bu... Who exactly are you!" Qian Bao took a deep breath and muttered to himself. Then his gaze shifted toward Xiao Xiaolong who was just about to leave.

"Young master Xiao, could you tell me the identity of young master Bu... Someone who could point out the flaws of a dish in such a detailed manner is definitely not an ordinary person. Is he an imperial chef from the imperial kitchen?" Qian Bao asked as he performed a fist and palm salute.

Xiao Xiaolong was stunned for a moment and a mischievous smile suddenly appeared on his face. He narrowed his eyes and said, "Isn't Owner Bu really awesome? Not only are his culinary skills high, his ability to assess dishes is first-rate as well. I was truly impressed."

"Owner Bu?!" Qian Bao knitted his eyebrows together. Then he narrowed his eyes as he sucked in his breath and said, "Is this person... the owner of the black-hearted store?"

Xiao Xiaolong mysteriously smiled and did not reply. He turned around and followed after Bu Fang's back figure.

At that moment, Bu Fang was slowly walking with his hands behind his back. The system's solemn voice was resounding within his mind.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the abrupt mission: taste the thirteen dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and find out their inadequacies. The mission reward will now be released."

Chapter 74: Go To That Store Owner... And Kill Him

With the scarf wrapped around his neck, Bu Fang walked out of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The moment he stepped out of the warm interior of the building, the cold air rushed into his face, causing his entire body to shudder. He could not help but cross his arms across his chest as he walked.

However, even though the temperature was very low, Bu Fang was feeling abnormally fervent. The reason was the system just announced in his mind that he succeeded his mission and he was about to receive the mission reward.

Ten percent of true energy cultivation progression, and the advanced cooking method of a dish from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant were very generous rewards. Bu Fang was obviously feeling overjoyed.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others had caught up with him and were walking next to him. Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Xiaolong were chatting nonstop and continuously praising Bu Fang's mystical and wondrous ability to render the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's chef speechless just by tasting the dish once.

Xiao Yanyu had once again put on her veil and concealed her peerless beauty. She seemed calm and elegant as she quietly walked along with them.

The four of them bid farewell as they reached the entrance of the

alleyway. Xiao Xiaolong and the others went back home while Bu Fang stepped into the alleyway and returned to his store.

At the entrance of the store, Blacky was fast asleep on its belly. Even though Bu Fang returned, he was still soundly asleep.

"The mission reward has been released. Ten percent of true energy cultivation progression has been obtained. The system will now randomly draw from the dishes that were assessed." The system's solemn voice rang out in Bu Fang's mind.

Bu Fang was slightly startled. His eyes narrowed as his mind settled down. He was suddenly curious about which dish he would draw.

Obviously, the dish he least wanted was the Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs since he already had Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs on his store's menu.

Within his mind, the names of various dishes rapidly flashed by and continuously changed. This was the system performing a random drawing...

At last, the changing of the dishes gradually became slower and then stopped. Finally, it was reflected clearly within Bu Fang's mind.

"The dish, Pan-Fried Flower Crab, has been drawn. After advancement, it is now Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab."

Bu Fang could not help but recall the alluring and fragrant Pan-Fried Flower Crab and started to drool. Compared to drawing the Sweet 'n' Sour Drunken Ribs, the Pan-Fried Flower Crab was already considered pretty good.

Since a wooden board was hung at the entrance informing customers that business was suspended for that day, many customers excitedly arrived only to dejectedly depart. For example, Fatty Jin and his buddies waited for a while and only resentfully left after realizing that the store was really not opening for business.

The other customers also experienced the same situation.

After Bu Fang returned to the store, he did not plan to open for business as it was getting late. After a quick change of clothes, he stepped into the kitchen and was ready to start learning the new dish, Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab.

.....

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Qian Bao was sitting upright on a chair with one hand holding his chin while frowning. He seemed to be thinking about something.

"Young master Bu is actually the owner of the black-hearted store? He actually came to Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and

criticized all of our dishes. Who does he think he is? How dare he look down on us!" Qian Bao clenched his fist and furrowed his eyebrows in fury.

Suddenly, he unclenched his fists and sighed. "However, even so... This Owner Bu's level is high indeed. To be able to analyze a dish just by tasting it once, how terrifying!"

He originally planned to have the chefs on his side challenge Bu Fang's store. However, from the looks of it, it was fortunate that they had not gone yet. Otherwise, their reputation would have gone down the drain. It was evident that there was a marginal difference in ability between Bu Fang and the chefs of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

However, Qian Bao could not resign himself to let things live down like this. Swallowing his own anger was not his way of handling affairs.

Wait a moment! Qian Bao's eyes suddenly lit up as if he thought of something.

"I can let the chefs compete with him in knife skills! Without putting in a certain amount of time, it's impossible for anyone to master it! Even though we can't compete with Owner Bu when it comes to cooking methods, we can still defeat him with skills that require time to master!"

Qian Bao excitedly banged the table as a smile appeared on his face and finally laughed out loud. Then, he ordered his

subordinates to gather all of the chefs. He needed to pick the chef that was most skillful with knives.

Qian Bao had already witnessed Bu Fang's understanding of dishes and cooking methods, so he could only proceed from the knife skills aspect.

Just when Qian Bao was assembling the chefs and was preparing to pick out the chef most proficient in knife skills, a Blood Phoenix Chicken was already secretly delivered to the crown prince's palace.

Within the majestic palace of the crown prince, Ji Chengan was standing with his hands behind his back. He was curiously looking at the metallic cage made from fine iron in front of him. Within the cage, a lustrous chicken, that was entirely blood red in color, was imprisoned.

"Is this the fifth grade spirit beast, Blood Phoenix Chicken? The appearance is peculiar indeed," Ji Chengan nodded and said as the corner of his mouth curled up.

Xushi was respectfully standing at a distance as he said, "The Blood Phoenix Chicken is a fifth grade spirit beast with a fast movement speed. Even though its combat ability is very weak among the fifth grade spirit beasts, it's still comparable to a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. It took them some time to capture it."

"You did well, Xushi," the crown prince emotionally said as he turned around and looked toward Xushi.

Xushi bowed once more and did not say anything else.

"The Blood Phoenix Chicken and the Sage Herb are all prepared. Even the valuable medicinal ingredients are mostly gathered. Now, we only need to have Owner Bu cook the Elixir Cuisine. If this Elixir Cuisine can improve father's health, then my position as the emperor... will be settled." The crown prince stood with his hands held behind his back as he excitedly looked toward the Main Hall at a distance with many thoughts going through his mind.

For the sake of becoming the emperor, he invested far too much. Every single step was like walking on thin ice. That was because he was afraid that if he took the wrong step, his beloved younger brother would obtain a ruinous weakness that would completely destroy him.

"Xushi, make preparations. I will personally head to Owner Bu's store tomorrow. We must ensure the Elixir Cuisine is produced." The crown prince solemnly said, "Before we succeed, information about this Elixir Cuisine must be kept a secret. Do not let King Yu's subordinates find out about this."

"Yes, Your Highness!" Xushi respectfully said.

King Yu's manor.

Within a secret chamber, King Yu, Ji Chengyu, opened his eyes and turbid energy was expelled from his mouth. The true energy outside of his body was seething like boiling water. After a long

while, it began to calm down and drew back within his body.

"Sixth grade Battle-Emperor is truly difficult to reach. I've been stuck at this bottleneck for over a year." King Yu heavily breathed out while feeling slightly helpless. However, he knew that he should not rush when it came to cultivation and he did not know of any solution either.

The door to the cultivation chamber was opened. A figure enveloped within a black robe was standing at the entrance and a hoarse voice sounded out. "Your Highness seems to be troubled over cultivating matters? Actually, Your Highness could use our Soul Sect's cultivation method. Advancing to sixth grade Battle-Emperor would not be an issue."

King Yu glanced at him and sneered. "After that, I'll turn into a monster that doesn't resemble humans or ghosts like you? I am someone who is going to be the emperor. How could I have an ugly appearance like the likes of you?"

King Yu's words were slightly sarcastic, but this was his usual style of speaking. The head elder of Soul Sect, Hun Qianyun, was not angry despite being on the receiving end and only eerily chuckled.

Suddenly, a figure came from the door and handed over a secret letter to Ji Chengyu.

Ji Chengyu nodded and without making any attempts in concealment, he directly tore open the letter and started reading

from it. As he read the letter, his expression became somewhat grave.

"This brother of mine has truly been working hard for the sake of becoming emperor. Even this sort of method was employed. Everyone is well aware of father's health. There's simply no possibility of a cure at this point. He's actually placing his hope on a little store's Elixir Cuisine? How laughable."

As a burst of energy gushed out from King Yu's palm, the letter was immediately set on fire. Finally, it turned into ashes and drifted away.

His eyes were extremely cold as he spoke with a trace of coldness in his voice, "Hun Qianyun, it is time for you to show your capabilities. Since my elder brother wishes to prolong father's life... then I shall stop him. Tonight, bring your men to that Fang Fang's Little Store and kill the owner. Remember, it must be a silent assassination. After all, that store is extraordinary according to the rumors."

Hun Qianyun began to laugh with his hoarse voice. "When it comes to assassination... if the Soul Sect claims to be in the second place, no one in the world would dare to claim first place. King Yu, just wait for my good news."

Chapter 75: Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab

"Head elder... Do you need us to move out?" the two Soul Sect members standing behind Hun Qianyun asked.

There seemed to be a spirit fire pulsating within Hun Qianyun's pupils. It gave others an eerie feeling, as if they were facing a wraith that escaped from hell.

"Do you not realize that King Yu is testing us? Even though King Yu has joined forces with us, he's still someone that belongs to the imperial court after all while we're from the sects. Our relationship is originally like that of fire and water. If King Yu wasn't aiming for the throne, he wouldn't dare to violate the taboo and cooperate with us," Hun Qianyun simply said. Every time he spoke, the spirit fire in his pupils would throb once.

"Humans, for the sake of benefits, will always take a risk. No matter what sort of identity you have, this will always be the case."

"Then... what does head elder intend to do?" the two members of the Soul Sect puzzledly asked.

"A few days ago, Hun Qianduan and the Sword Monarch escaped to that store. They relied on the protection of the store to obstruct the pursuit of Xiao Meng and Lian Fu. That mysterious store's strength is absolutely unimaginable for us. According to the rumors, there's a ninth grade supreme beast watching over the store. King Yu's objective is for us to sound out the actual situation. If we can succeed in killing him... that would be best,"

Hun Qianyun slowly said.

"However, even two seven grade Battle-Saints like Xiao Meng and Lian Fu were intercepted. If mere Battle-Emperors like you two were to go, it would be akin to committing suicide..."

The pupils of the two Soul Sect members immediately constricted as they felt a chill suddenly rise up from the bottom of their feet.

"Let Ah Long and Ah Hu go. They're both fifth grade Battle-Kings. If they rely on our techniques, they might be able to succeed in the assassination. Even if they fail... we'll only lose two Battle-Kings," Hun Qianyun said as he turned around.

.....

As the night descended, the early winter night brought a nip in the air. Gray clouds were quietly moving under the influence of the wind in the skies, concealing the two crescent moons that were calling out to each other.

Within Fang Fang's Little store, Bu Fang had already changed into a comfortable set of clothing. His long hair was tied up with a woolen rope and his forehead was free of any bangs.

"The Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab is a dish that tests the quality of the ingredients and the control over the heat during the pan-fry process," Bu Fang muttered as he entered the kitchen. At the

moment, he was planning to practice the dish that was randomly drawn, the Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab.

The flower crab, also known as *portunus pelagicus*, was a type of sea crab. It was known as flower crab due to the white spots on its shell. The meat of the flower crab was both tender and rich in nutrients.

Of course... This was true regarding an ordinary flower crab.

Based on Bu Fang's understanding of the system, the Tyrant Flower Crab would definitely not be an ordinary flower crab. It would definitely be a spirit beast.

When he entered the kitchen, there was a large water tank on the floor. There was no water within the tank, but a gigantic flower crab with its claws and legs tied up was placed inside.

This flower crab was beautiful. Its shell was fiery red in color while densely covered in crimson patterns, forming a dazzling picture.

"The Tyrant Flower Crab is a fifth grade spirit beast from the sea region of the Wildlands. Its attack power is extremely strong and its fighting ability is terrifying. It usually lives in a group and is one of the scariest groups in the sea region of the Wildlands. However, its meat is delicious and is an extremely good ingredient," The system solemnly introduced the Tyrant Flower Crab's information to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang narrowed his eyes. He already knew that the Tyrant Flower Crab would definitely not be an ordinary sea crab. The objective of the system was cooking fine food. The ingredients provided would definitely be first-rate.

Bu Fang expressionlessly grabbed a kitchen knife with a pointed end from above the table. The kitchen knife was glimmering with sharpness. As Bu Fang casually flicked his wrist, the kitchen knife began to twirl in his hand.

The Tyrant Flower Crab, which was tied up with a woolen rope, was obediently lying within the water tank. It was hard to imagine that it was actually a fifth grade spirit beast.

As Bu Fang flipped the Tyrant Flower Crab over, it was still cluelessly foaming at its mouth.

Once the belly of the Tyrant Flower Crab was exposed, Bu Fang stabbed the uppermost part of the belly with the tip of the kitchen knife. Within that instant, the Tyrant Flower Crab suddenly began to struggle. Its eyes were whirling around endlessly while the foam produced from its mouth increased.

After around half an hour, the Tyrant Flower Crab finally stopped struggling and the woolen rope used to tie its claws had also loosened. After prying open the abdomen shell and removing it, Bu Fang began to clean and process the Tyrant Flower Crab.

Once everything was settled, Bu Fang took out a frying pan. He poured some oil into it and let the pan heat up first.

Taking out the heavy kitchen knife which Bu Fang used everyday for his morning Meteor Knife Technique practice, he removed the woolen rope that was used to bind the Tyrant Flower Crab.

Once the temperature of the oil was hot enough, Bu Fang's eyes suddenly became sharp. The heavy kitchen knife was viciously swung and it immediately split the Tyrant Flower Crab into two. The cut made was extremely smooth.

Bu Fang's hand speed was extremely fast. During the instant when the Tyrant Flower Crab was cut open, before the crab butter could flow out, he immediately moved the entire crab onto the frying pan.

Tsss...

A rich fragrance instantly emerged from the frying pan. That was the reaction caused by the meeting between crab meat, crab butter, and hot oil.

Next was the control over the heat. Regarding this, Bu Fang was already quite experienced. Even though the Tyrant Flower Crab was gigantic, it was not a problem for him.

Soon, the Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab was ready to be served.

The Tyrant Flower Crab, which was split into two, was placed onto a plate and its exterior shell had assumed an even brighter

shade of red. Due to the oil covering its surface, it was glittering underneath the illumination of the lighting.

The smell of the crab butter was extremely fragrant after it was pan-fried. In addition with Bu Fang's ability over controlling the heat, the meat of the crab was white, fragrant, and tender. As it exuded billows of steam, it aroused one's appetite.

Bu Fang licked his lips. After wiping off the water droplets on his hands, he sat down on a chair and began to heartily eat the Pan-Fried Tyrant Flower Crab.

"As expected, this is a hundred times tastier than the Immortal Phoenix's Restaurant Pan-Fried Flower Crab. How can my culinary skills be so formidable?" Bu Fang shamelessly thought as he ate.

Half of the Tyrant Flower Crab was just nice for Bu Fang, so the other half was reclaimed into Whitey's stomach.

After cleaning up, Bu Fang stretched his body and yawned. After eating for the entire day, he was feeling slightly exhausted and was going to have an early rest. Having enough sleep was extremely important for a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking.

As the lights went out, everything returned into darkness and silence once more.

Deep in the night, the sound of something moving through the air suddenly emanated from the entrance of the alleyway. The

pitch-black figures were almost impossible to capture by the naked eye in the darkness.

The movement of the two people were agile as they slowly advanced while sticking to the quartzite walls of the alleyway. They were practically not making any sound.

Bu Fang's store was divided into two floors. The first floor was the business area, while on the second there were many rooms with windows and Bu Fang's room was among them. Bu Fang's room was very comfortable with a large open window. Every morning, the sunlight would be projected through the window and the room would be nicely warm.

However, as it was in the middle of winter, Bu Fang locked the window to prevent the cold wind from entering.

The two figures stealthily stuck close to a window, with both of them standing on each side. Their auras were completely concealed.

At the entrance of the store, Blacky who was soundly asleep suddenly moved. It drowsily opened its doggy eyes and glanced upward.

"Eh? What are these two fifth grade little rats doing here in the middle of the night? Their techniques are quite strange. Unfortunately, they've run into this lord dog... However, it's just two fifth grade little rats. This lord dog can't be bothered to take care of them. Bark. I am so sleepy."

Blacky snorted as it lowered its doggy head and continued sleeping.

The eyes of the two Battle-Kings from the Soul Sect flashed as one of them placed his hand on the window and the window immediately opened.

The two of them looked toward each other in surprise. They did not expect for things to be so easy. However, it was not the time for them to hesitate. The two of them agilely went through the window.

Chapter 76: Purple-Eyed Whitey, Extermination

As the two of them landed on the floor, they closed the window without making any noise. When it came to assassination, both of them were extremely experienced. Since they had even assassinated cabinet ministers from the imperial courts before, they did not attach any importance to the owner of a small restaurant. If their boss had not solemnly reminded them to be careful before they set off, they would not even bother to be this cautious as their assassination target was simply too weak.

The position where Ah Long and Ah Hu were located was not Bu Fang's bedroom. The interior of the room was empty and spacious. There was no one in sight.

Ah Long's eyes slightly narrowed as he pointed ahead. Their figures moved toward a door nearby. As the door was pushed open, there was unexpectedly no sound at all. Everything was quietly completed.

The two of them walked out of the room and reached a corner. The left corner led downstairs. The flight of stairs was eerie and gloomy as if it could devour a person's mind, causing them to uncontrollably feel terrified.

Ah Long swallowed his saliva and forced himself to look away. Their line of sight shifted toward a tightly closed door ahead of them.

The two of them were overjoyed as they looked at each other. From within that room, they could hear stable breathing. From the looks of it, the owner of the store should be within that room.

They lightly pushed against the door of the room, but it was clearly locked as the door did not even budge. Ah Long unhurriedly took out a slender wire from his pockets. The true energy within his body surged and a thin layer of true energy enveloped the surface of the metal wire.

As he inserted the metal wire enveloped by true energy into the keyhole, the lump of true energy transformed and immediately filled the keyhole. He slightly turned the metal wire and the sound of a lock opening rang out... The door was opened.

"Hmm? It's too easy?" Ah Long was surprised once more. It did not feel as dangerous as their boss had described.

The two of them pushed open the door and looked inside. Their eyebrows were knitted together as they could not see anything within the darkness. With no other choice, they intended to enter the room and immediately launch a killing move.

However, the two of them suddenly felt a chill cover their entire bodies. The step they were about to take was frozen in place as well.

That was a type of chill that extended from the bottom of their hearts and instantly enveloped their entire bodies, like the cold wind blowing from the Arctic Lands.

Their eyes suddenly widened and their pupils constricted to the size of a pea. They did not dare to make even the slightest move.

Two rays of red light suddenly appeared from behind them and locked onto their bodies.

"Wh... Who's there?!"

Ah Long's entire body began to tremble as he struggled to turn his head. As he looked behind, his eyes met with that ray of light...

Whitey's mechanical eyes were flashing red as its mechanical arms directly grabbed their necks and effortlessly lifted them up.

"Sensing the targets' killing intent toward the owner. Searching for a solution..."

"Solution has been selected and will be activated immediately."

"Solution: Extermination."

Rays of light burst out from Whitey's mechanical eyes, as if it was searching for some data. After determining the solution, Whitey's eyes suddenly turned into a deep purple.

The mechanical arms immediately tightened its grip.

Ah Long's face was filled with terror as he struggled to break free from the mechanical arms that were like steel pliers. They tried to manipulate the true energy within their body, but whenever it flowed into their hands, it would disperse before they could use it...

As Ah Long felt the grip around his neck getting tighter and tighter, his struggles were also becoming more intense as blood spilled from his mouth.

Whitey faced their fearful gazes without the slightest concern. It was as cold as a death god that treats all living things with indifference, while its purple mechanical eyes seemed extremely demonic within the darkness.

"Crack!"

With two crisp sounds, Ah Long and Ah Hu suddenly stopped struggling. Then, their bodies went limp and their heads hanged down. Dark red blood flowed from their mouths and dripped onto the floor, producing an eerie sound.

Whitey indifferently turned around while carrying the two who went limp as it left Bu Fang's room.

As the door closed, the blood stains on the floor suddenly disappeared...

Bu Fang sniffed the air as he drowsily lifted his hand and picked his nose. Then he smacked his lips and continued sleeping.

Bang bang!

Two corpses fell from the air and crashed into the quartzite floor of the alleyway. Blood was flowing out...

Blacky drowsily raised its head. When it saw the two corpses, it scrunched its nose and snorted. Then, it opened its doggy mouth and lightly exhaled. The two corpses were blown out of the alleyway by a sudden squall and flung onto the streets.

After doing this, Blacky contentedly lay down once more and continued sleeping.

.....

Within King Yu's manor, a candle flame was slightly flickering.

An aged and gaunt figure wrapped within a black robe was deeply staring at the flickering candle flame. His eye sockets were filled with two lumps of azure spirit fire.

Suddenly, the spirit fire within Hun Qianyun's pupils became faint for a moment and the sound of something breaking rang out.

A sigh came from his mouth. "As I thought... That store should

not be provoked. Ah Long, Ah Hu... died just like that."

Two figures silently appeared in front of Hun Qianyun and respectfully saluted.

"Ah Long and Ah Hu died. Go to the alleyway and retrieve their corpses... We failed the assassination this time. I'll go and seek forgiveness from King Yu." Hun Qianyun tottered out of the room with his back hunched over.

The two Battle-Emperors of the Soul Sect were feeling bewildered. Before Ah Long and Ah Hu set off, they already solemnly reminded them to be careful. However, not much time has passed... The two were already dead?

Two fifth grade Battle-Kings could not even struggle?

The two of them looked each other in the eye and could feel the fear in the other's eyes.

.....

"Your Highness, we failed the assassination this time," with his back hunched over, Hun Qianyun simply said to King Yu.

King Yu was wearing a luxurious robe with his hair loose and a peaceful expression on his face. As he glanced at Hun Qianyun, the corner of his mouth widened into a smile.

"Understood, I'll give your subordinates a good burial. You may withdraw first," King Yu softly said.

Hun Qianyun's spirit fire slightly jumped. He did not say anything as he turned around and left. There was not even the slightest bit of intimidating aura or energy coming from his body. He was like an ordinary elderly man with one foot in his grave.

However, King Yu did not dare to underestimate him. Hun Qianyun was the number one expert within the Soul Sect. His cultivation level was profound and he was most specialized in the way of the souls. Reportedly, he had already entered the realm of a seventh grade Battle-Saint. However, there were others who said that he was only a peak-level sixth grade Battle-Emperor.

As King Yu watched Hun Qianyun's figure disappear, his eyes were gradually filled with interest.

"This old fox is truly ruthless. He actually used the lives of two Battle-Kings to display his sincerity. Very well... Then I shall trust you for the time being." King Yu looked demonically charming as the corners of his mouth curled up.

"Fang Fang's Little Store... What kind of secrets is this store that suddenly appeared hiding?"

Compared to the Soul Sect, King Yu suddenly discovered that he was more curious about that store.

A night peacefully passed.

The next morning, Bu Fang woke up early as usual. He first went to the kitchen and began his daily knife skill practice. He held a heavy kitchen knife as he rapidly chopped up radishes. After finishing his knife skill practice, Bu Fang began to cook Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. It was breakfast meant for Blacky who was sooner or later going to turn into a pig.

Fatty Jin and his buddies majestically arrived with impatient expressions. As Bu Fang had suspended business the day before, they had to suffer from their craving for an entire day. After getting used to Bu Fang's dishes, the food from other restaurants were tasteless.

"Owner Bu! You're finally open for business! Oh my, there's a new dish! Come, give me a serving of every dish!" Fatty Jin ordered his dishes in an experienced manner.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and headed toward the kitchen. His daily business had started.

Ouyang Xiaoyi arrived at the store while enduring the cold wind. She rubbed her hands together and removed her fur overcoat and her hat, revealing her rosy face. There was automatic heating in the store, so the interior was quite warm and very cozy.

Bu Fang cooked the dishes while Xiaoyi served them. The rapport between the two of them was becoming better and better.

At the entrance of the alleyway, King Yu, with an imposing appearance and extraordinary temperament, slowly approached while wearing a brocade robe. He stepped into the store and indifferently sized up the interior.

It was King Yu's first time coming to Bu Fang's store, so everything felt new to him. The astronomical prices of the dishes were especially interesting to him.

After ordering a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, King Yu began to sample the delicacies of Bu Fang's store.

At the same time... He waited for the crown prince to arrive.

Chapter 77: The Crown Prince And King Yu

Within the porcelain wine cup, a liquid as clear as water from alpine springs was lightly swaying back and forth. A rich aroma—with an intoxicating scent that lingered around one's nostrils—was emanating from within the wine cup.

King Yu swirled the wine within the cup. When he tasted the wine, the mellow and spicy taste that erupted within his mouth caused the pores all over his body to tremble. It was the first time he drank such a delicious wine. It was far better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine from the imperial palace.

"As expected of the store that was able to let father come in person. Just this wine itself is enough for the customers to linger within the store," King Yu lamented. This was the first time he came to Bu Fang's store. Previously, he had only heard the rumors. This time, after personally experiencing it himself, he was finally able to experience the charm of the store's delicacies.

The wine was a fine wine. The dishes were fine dishes.

That tangerine-colored Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and that dense steam accompanied by the fragrance of meat was like a beautiful and captivating picture.

At the entrance of the alleyway, the crown prince was walking with his hands behind his back and his head held high. Xushi was the only one following him. His expression was solemn while carrying a gigantic steel cage with one hand.

"Hmm?" Bu Fang, who had just left the kitchen, puzzledly looked toward the entrance. He saw the crown prince and Xushi immediately placing a steel cage onto the ground after entering the store.

"Owner Bu, I've come once more," The crown prince chuckled and said as he intensely stared at Bu Fang.

If Bu Fang was able to cook the Elixir Cuisine, the emperor's health condition should improve. And so, as the person who offered up the Elixir Cuisine, the emperor would definitely be more favorable to Ji Chengan. His position as the crown prince would be even firmer and he would obtain an even greater advantage over his brothers.

As he thought about all these, the crown prince became even more fervent toward Bu Fang, who could cook the Elixir Cuisine.

The crown prince raised his hand and grabbed the cloth covering the steel cage. With a sudden pull, the interior of the steel cage was exposed.

A Blood Phoenix Chicken with blood-red feathers was quietly standing within the steel cage. Its eyes were swiveling around its sockets.

"Blood Phoenix Chicken?" Bu Fang was slightly stunned. Then, he looked at the crown prince strangely. He did not expect the crown prince to actually go through the trouble of catching a Blood

Phoenix Chicken.

"That's right, it's only natural that Owner Bu would recognize this Blood Phoenix Chicken. However, do you recall what you've said before?" the crown prince smiled and said.

Bu Fang was expressionless as he walked around the steel cage once. He carefully examined the Blood Phoenix Chicken and could not help but compare it with the one provided by the system. He discovered that this Blood Phoenix Chicken provided by the crown prince was in every way inferior to the one provided by the system.

"The ingredients provided by the system are all high quality products that went through careful selections. They're the cream of the crop among all the major varieties," the system's serious voice rang out within Bu Fang's mind.

Bu Fang nodded. He believed that the ingredients provided by the system were definitely the best.

He had indeed agreed that he would personally cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup for the crown prince if the ingredients were provided.

"What about the Sage Herb and the other medicinal ingredients?" Bu Fang asked.

The crown prince's eyes immediately lit up. With a wave of his hand, a leather bag filled with medicinal ingredients appeared in

his hand and he handed it to Bu Fang.

The Heavenly Sage Herb was kept within a exquisite wooden box which he carefully handed over to Bu Fang as well.

The Heavenly Sage Herb was very expensive and its value was comparable to the Blood Phoenix Chicken. Moreover, it was very difficult to harvest as it only grows within the Wildlands. That was a terrifying place with innumerable high grade spirit beasts. Even a seventh grade Battle-Saint might perish when exploring the Wildlands.

However, as the Heavenly Sage Herb was only a fifth grade spirit herb, it was located at the outer perimeters of the Wildlands. So the crown prince was still able to collect it by spending a large amount of money.

Receiving the Sage Herb that did not look too good, Bu Fang nodded and simply said, "Cooking the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup takes a long time. Today's operating hour is almost over. Come here earlier tomorrow to collect the Elixir Cuisine. Since you provided the ingredients yourself, you're allowed to bring the dish back."

The smile on the crown prince's face froze as he thought, "You're not cooking today? Just because the business hours is over?"

"Owner Bu, I really need this Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. Could you cook it right now?" the crown prince asked with a frown. These ingredients used up a large amount of his savings. He

wanted to personally watch as Bu Fang cooked the dish, otherwise he would not be at ease.

Bu Fang glanced at the crown prince and said, "The Elixir Cuisine is not as simple as you think. A lot of techniques are needed and I need to concentrate. If you don't believe me, you can go back and ask your imperial chefs.

"Honestly, the quality of the ingredients that you provided can only be considered so-so. I am really not interested in them. However, I really hate it when others doubt me. This is the first time, so I'll forgive you. However, if there's a next time, you can take your ingredients back," Bu Fang expressionlessly said as he indifferently looked at the crown prince.

Ji Chengan was furious! Who would dare to speak to him in such a manner within the empire! And even dare to threaten him!

"You..." The crown prince took a deep breath. When he thought about the store's background and Bu Fang's culinary skills as well as the miraculous Elixir Cuisine, the corner of his mouth widened into a smile as he suppressed his anger.

"I am not doubting Owner Bu. Fine, then I shall send someone to collect it tomorrow. I hope Owner Bu won't disappoint me," the crown prince said.

"Hahaha!"

Just as the crown prince finished speaking, a burst of laughter filled with ridicule came from nearby.

The crown prince slightly frowned as he looked toward the source of the laughter and immediately spotted King Yu.

King Yu lifted up a wine cup and emptied it. Then he stood up and walked toward the crown prince with a warm smile plastered on his face like a refined scholar.

"My beloved elder brother, I didn't think I would meet you here. Tsk, tsk, tsk. Are you here to let Owner Bu cook the Elixir Cuisine? This is for extending father's... life, right?" King Yu simply said with a trace of a smile on his face.

The pupils of both the crown prince and Xushi constricted. Previously, their attention was focused on Bu Fang, so they did not realize King Yu was within the store as well.

"How could he be here?!" The crown prince was both agitated and furious!

The crown prince suddenly glanced toward Xushi with a meaningful look in his eyes. Xushi's body shuddered as he fearfully took a step back and bowed toward the crown prince.

"Hahaha! What a coincidence, second brother. It looks like you were attracted by Owner Bu's food as well." A smile was on the crown prince's face as he nodded toward King Yu.

King Yu, Ji Chengyu, was a peak-level fifth grade Battle-King. He was only a step away from becoming a Battle-Emperor. Among the three princes, his cultivation level was the highest.

Even though the crown prince, Ji Chengan, and the third prince, Ji Chengxue, were both fifth grade Battle-Kings as well, they were only at the initial stage. Compared to King Yu, they were a lot worse.

"Indeed, Owner Bu's dishes are truly delicious and the wine is the best in the world. Elder brother, you should give it a try when you have the chance." King Yu chuckled as he placed some crystals onto the table and slowly walked out of the store.

The smile on the crown prince's face gradually disappeared as he gloomily watched King Yu's figure fade away within the alleyway.

With a high cultivation level and half of the imperial court supporting him, his young brother, Ji Chengyu, was the crown prince's greatest competitor and the source of his restlessness.

"Owner Bu... You really can't cook it today?" the crown prince turned toward Bu Fang and asked.

"I can't," Bu Fang simply replied as he expressionlessly turned around and sat down on a chair. "In addition, the service charge for cooking this dish is fifty crystals. Don't forget to pay."

"Fifty crystals?" The crown prince narrowed his eyes. With a wave of his hand, crystals were placed onto the table. Then, he turned around and stormed off in anger. As the crown prince, he did not lack money.

Xushi sighed as he followed after the crown prince with a frown on his face.

Soon, their figures disappeared within the alleyway as well.

"All right, Xiaoyi, today's business hours is over." Bu Fang stood up and patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head. After seeing her off, he picked up the steel cage and entered the kitchen.

Chapter 78: Close To Level Up

With a loud clang, Bu Fang put down the steel cage within the kitchen. He stretched his body and languidly glanced toward the Blood Phoenix Chicken standing idly within the cage.

"System, if the quality of the Blood Phoenix Chicken is slightly poorer, would the effects of the Elixir Cuisine be affected?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked.

"If the quality of the ingredient is poor, the effects of the Elixir Cuisine would naturally be poor as well. This is common sense," the system solemnly said. Bu Fang was suddenly choked up by its words.

He glanced toward the Blood Phoenix Chicken once more. Coincidentally, the chicken turned its head as well and its swiveling eyes were fixated on Bu Fang.

"Well, this is an ingredient provided by that crown prince himself after all. If the effects aren't good, it's not my fault," Bu Fang indifferently thought and his conscience immediately became clear.

After closing up the store, Bu Fang did not immediately start cooking. He rested for a while and called out his system panel to have a look.

Gender: Male

Age: Twenty

True Energy Cultivation Level: Third Grade (Has already achieved the ability to manifest true energy outside of the body. As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Unknown

Skills: Level One Meteor Knife Technique (80/100)

Tools: Fragments of God of Cooking (3/4)

God of Cooking overall rating: Apprentice Chef (You can finally cook ingredients with your true energy. Practice your knife skills and the road to becoming the God of Cooking will open for you. Work hard, young man.)

The current turnover is three thousand six hundred crystals.
True energy conversion degree: 900/1000

System Level: Three Stars (Conversion ratio is at twenty-five percent.)

As he focused on the system panel, Bu Fang's expression did not change but his mind was somewhat agitated. The turnover had already reached three thousand six hundred crystals. He only needed to earn another four hundred crystals to level up the system and his cultivation level would increase as well.

And four hundred crystals was just about his turnover for a day.

"Looks like I'll most likely level up after tomorrow's opening hours is over. Will there be any special reward for reaching fourth grade Battle-Spirit? However, I should be able to complete collecting the God of Cooking set by that time as well," Bu Fang muttered.

After resting for a while, he stood up and headed toward the kitchen. Preparing the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup needed a lot of time and also required using true energy during the cooking process, so Bu Fang did not dare to be careless.

He opened the door of the steel cage and immediately grabbed the Blood Phoenix Chicken. Even though its spirit energy was suppressed by the system, the struggle put up by a fifth grade spirit beast was not weak either.

However, Bu Fang was an experienced chef after all, and handling ingredients was an easy task for him. After a while, he finished processing the Blood Phoenix Chicken.

After taking out the Heavenly Sage Herb from within the

exquisite box and some of the needed medicinal ingredients from the leather bag, Bu Fang began to prepare the Elixir Cuisine, Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

...

King Yu was in a rather cheerful mood as he returned to his manor. Perhaps tasting delicious food and fine wine might be the reason, but Ji Chengyu felt as if he was floating as he walked.

"I didn't expect that store's dishes to be that delicious. That Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is truly unforgettable." As King Yu recalled the captivating taste of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, he could not help but lick his lips as a trace of intoxication appeared in his eyes.

Here was another fellow captivated by Bu Fang's food.

King Yu suddenly felt somewhat regretful. He would have been able to taste these delicacies at an earlier date if he had gone to Fang Fang's Little Store earlier.

Just when King Yu was thinking about the dishes cooked by Bu Fang, the head elder of Soul Sect, Hun Qianyun, appeared in front of him along with his subordinates. They were all wearing black robes and their appearances were quite sinister and terrifying.

Even though his eyes flashed with disdain for a moment, King Yu was still smiling on the outside as he looked at them.

"Did you obtain any result while visiting that mysterious store?" Hun Qianyun's hoarse voice, like the sound of gravel rubbing together, rang out, giving goosebumps to any listener.

"That elder brother of mine has already caught the Blood Phoenix Chicken. He brought it to the store along with valuable medicinal ingredients and asked the owner to cook the Elixir Cuisine. However... that Elixir Cuisine will only be completed tomorrow," King Yu simply said.

"Oh? It'll only be completed tomorrow?" Hun Qianyun narrowed his eyes. The spirit fire pulsated for a moment, as if he was thinking.

King Yu nodded and said, "The Elixir Cuisine is not an ordinary dish after all. Even the owner of that mysterious store will need to spend some time to cook it. However, this is great news for us."

"Are you thinking of sending us to ruin the soup tomorrow?" Hun Qianyun puzzledly asked.

"That's right, it must be ruined. Father is not only old and frail, he suffers from numerous undiagnosable illnesses as well. Forcibly extending his lifespan will only prolong his suffering. As his son, I don't want to see my father suffer..." King Yu simply replied. Then his gaze shifted toward Hun Qianyun and said, "Prepare some men along with experts from within my manor and set up an ambush at the entrance of the alleyway tomorrow. Remember, you must ruin that Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup."

"If you fail this time... You and your men can just get lost."

Hun Qianyun was indifferently standing at a distance. When he heard King Yu's words, the spirit fire within his eyes suddenly trembled. Then he saluted and withdrew from the room.

As King Yu watched Hun Qianyun's disappearing figure, the corner of his mouth widened into a smile. Then he looked away into the distance and yelled out, "Prepare a horse for me, I am entering the palace."

...

The crown prince palace, on the left of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

The crown prince, Ji Chengan, had a gloomy expression as he sat high above while looking down on the kneeling Xushi. The corners of his mouth were twitching, indicating that he was suppressing his anger.

Xushi was feeling both terrified and helpless. He understood that the crown prince had already begun to suspect him, ever since they met King Yu at Fang Fang's Little Store.

"Xushi, can you explain to me why King Yu would appear within that store?" the crown prince asked.

"I... don't know." Xushi's expression froze.

"After instructing you yesterday that our visit must be kept a secret, we met King Yu the moment we arrived at the store... Are you telling me this is all just a coincidence?" The crown prince chuckled.

"Your Highness... Are you doubting me?" Xushi raised his head and solemnly looked at the crown prince. "I've been following Your Highness for many years. How could Your Highness not understand the way I work?"

Xushi's tone was somewhat indignant and dejected.

Ji Chengan was slightly startled. When he saw Xushi's dejected appearance, his cold expression became gentle. He believed that Xushi would not betray him.

He was suspecting Xushi only because he was irritated by the expression that King Yu gave before he left. Why should the crown prince be bullied by a mere king?

"Alright, I was only befuddled by anger. There's no way I wouldn't know about your loyalty. Right now, go and prepare some experts first. Since King Yu already found out that we asked Owner Bu to cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, then collecting the soup tomorrow will definitely not be safe. Go look for more experts who are at least fifth grade Battle-Kings."

"Understood, Your Highness. I'll withdraw first," Xushi solemnly nodded and saluted as he left.

However, after a while, Xushi—who had just left—hurriedly returned with an anxious expression on his face.

"Your Highness, I just received news that King Yu... entered the imperial palace to meet His Majesty."

The crown prince raised his eyebrows and a trace of coldness flashed in his eyes. After silently cursing, he hurriedly changed his clothes and headed for the Main Hall to meet the emperor as well.

...

As the night descended, the two crescent moons were suspended high above the sky with dark clouds shrouding them.

Several figures suddenly landed in the alleyway where Fang Fang's Little Store was located. They were all wearing black garments that allowed them to move around unnoticed at night. The aura exuding from them was throbbing as true energy violently surged from their bodies.

"Tomorrow's operation must not fail... We must definitely finish setting up the magic array by today."

Among the figures, a stooping figure appeared. Two lumps of eerie spirit fire were flickering within the darkness as a hoarse voice reverberated in the air.

Chapter 79: Entering The Magic Array With The Chicken Soup

Imperial palace, Main Hall.

The crown prince hurriedly entered while wearing a luxurious robe. Within the Main Hall, the emperor was languidly sitting on throne with one hand holding his chin. His body would lightly tremble from time to time as the sound of faint coughing came from his mouth.

When the emperor saw the crown prince entering the Main Hall, a smile immediately appeared on his face as he softly said, "Chengan, you came. From what I heard from your second brother, you went to Owner Bu's place and prepared the Elixir Cuisine for me?"

When Ji Chengan heard his words, his expression slightly changed. However, he still respectfully bowed toward the emperor and said, "Father, I was only worried about your health. I heard that Owner Bu's Elixir Cuisine has the effect of prolonging life, so I sent my men to purchase a Blood Phoenix Chicken from the Wildlands and asked Owner Bu to cook the Elixir Cuisine."

King Yu, Ji Chengyu, was within the Main Hall as well. He was standing in a distance with a smile on his face as he watched the crown prince with interest. He deliberately entered the imperial palace just to inform his father about this piece of news.

Ji Chengan was planning to conceal his actions from their father,

so that their father would definitely be impressed when he finally presented the Elixir Cuisine that could prolong lifespan. However... since Ji Chengyu informed their father about this piece of news first, the effect would not be as shocking.

Furthermore... The most important point is that since their father already found out about the Elixir Cuisine, a gleam of hope would definitely sprout within his heart. And once the Elixir Cuisine was ruined, this trace of hope would be crushed as well. When that time came, the difference between expectation and outcome would surely affect their father's opinion of the crown prince.

King Yu's eyes were flashing brilliantly as he looked at the crown prince with a bright smile on his face.

The crown prince had already cursed King Yu countless times within his mind. How could he not understand King Yu's thinking. He originally concealed his actions from the emperor just to achieve the effect of impressing him. However, with the disrupting actions by King Yu, the resulting effect would surely be greatly reduced.

"Your actions are considerate, but I know my illness very well. However, I understand your intentions." The emperor gently smiled as a rare trace of kindness appeared on his face.

The crown prince could only force out a smile. The only thing he could do was hope that Xushi could safely transport the Elixir Cuisine to the palace.

However, he knew that King Yu would definitely not let things proceed smoothly.

...

Bu Fang was slightly frowning while his hands were placed over the cover of the claypot. True energy was continuously flowing from his body into the claypot and continuously affecting the ingredients contained inside.

Bu Fang was still unfamiliar with true energy culinary, so he did not dare to be careless in the slightest. He was afraid he would made a mistake and ruin this dish.

Fine beads of sweat appeared on his forehead, but Bu Fang ignored them and was fully focused on cooking with true energy. Finally, there was a slight change in his expression and the corner of his mouth slightly curled up.

After dispersing the true energy, Bu Fang pulled back his hand and heavily breathed out. He lifted up a glass of water from the table and drank a mouthful.

This water was cold, fresh, and sweet. It was mountain spring water provided by the system that contained spirit energy and was nourishing to the body.

He lifted up the lid of the claypot and took a look. The Blood

Phoenix Chicken was quietly lying within the claypot. As the chicken soup bubbled, the jelly-like, translucent flesh would gently tremble. The color of the chicken soup appeared as amber. However, it was not as bright as the previous one Bu Fang cooked for Xiao Yanyu. This was caused by the difference in quality of the ingredients and Bu Fang could not do anything about it either.

The essence of the Sage Herb and medicinal ingredients had permeated into the meat of the chicken and the soup, and a rich fragrance was wafting from the claypot.

The cooking of the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was finished.

After putting the lid of the claypot back once more, Bu Fang stretched his body as well as his neck. He walked toward the entrance of the store and as he opened the door, the cold winter air rushed into his face. Bu Fang, who was feeling tired after working throughout the night, felt slightly refreshed and slightly recovered from his fatigue.

After opening up the store for business as usual, Bu Fang placed a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky and rubbed its immaculate fur. Then Bu Fang stood up, pulled up a chair and contentedly curled up on it. He wanted to rest for a short while.

However, this break did not last long before Fatty Jin arrived with his buddies. Bu Fang could only start his busy day.

On the main street of the imperial city, Xushi was heading

toward Bu Fang's store while leading a group of people. The auras exuding from these people were very strong and the fluctuations of their true energy were almost distorting the air.

Xushi did not dare to be careless in the slightest about the operation to transport the soup. The crown prince was already dissatisfied with him. If he also messed up this matter, he might as well take a hike.

So he specially brought five Battle-Kings along with him to transport the soup, just in case something were to happen. After all, five Battle-Kings were already considered top tier combat power within the imperial city.

The entrance of the alleyway was quiet and peaceful. As Xushi stepped into the alleyway, he immediately began to frown. He seemed to sense a cold burst of energy rising from the bottom of his feet.

Was he imagining things? Xushi lowered his head and looked at the floor. It was still the old quartzite flooring. There was even moss growing between the gaps of the tiles. Everything was the same as usual.

"Perhaps I was just imagining things," Xushi thought as he shook his head and bitterly laughed. Then he led the group into Bu Fang's store.

Within the store, there were a few scattered customers enjoying their meals with relish. They were all rich and powerful people

from within the imperial city. Like Fatty Jin, they did not lack money.

"Oh, you're here." Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded when he saw Xushi step into the store.

"Wait for a while, the smelly boss is still cooking," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she motioned Xushi to wait.

Xushi was somewhat nervous, but he still composedly nodded.

After a while, Bu Fang finished cooking the last dish and let Xiaoyi serve it to the customer. Then he personally carried out a claypot from the kitchen. That claypot was still giving off steam as a rich fragrance spread everywhere.

Xushi's eyes immediately lit up as he thought, "This is definitely Owner Bu's Elixir Cuisine! There's no mistake!"

Xushi carefully received the claypot that Bu Fang passed over. After solemnly expressing his thanks, Xushi bid farewell to Bu Fang and left the store. The five Battle-Kings followed after him with grave expressions on their faces as well.

From the moment Xushi received the Elixir Cuisine, his chest began to tighten and he became extremely alert.

Violent true energy emerged from each Battle-King and surrounded Xushi to form a protective barrier.

Blacky, who was lying at entrance, lazily lifted its eyes to glance at the group of people. Then it snorted and went back to sleep.

Suddenly, a burst of chilly wind that was even colder than the bone-chilling wind blew into the alleyway from the entrance.

Xushi and the others, who were transporting the Elixir Cuisine, had just reached the entrance of the alleyway when they felt goosebumps all over their body at the same time. Their eyes instantly widened and emitted radiance as they scanned their surroundings.

"Who's there! Come out!!"

With a shout, a Battle-King expert concentrated true energy onto his fist and viciously smashed it toward a single direction.

Oom.

As the fist filled with true energy smashed into the empty air, the pupils of the Battle-King suddenly constricted. He realized the floor of the alleyway was radiating black light.

Two black circles filled with symbols appeared on the simple quartzite flooring and were rotating in the anticlockwise direction.

"Damn it! This is the killing array of the Soul Sect, the King of

Hell's Soul Rending Array!"

Xushi's expression became pale in that instant and his pupils nearly lost all luster.

Suddenly, the black light rose up and completely enveloped the entire group, as if they were pulled into another world.

With the sound of footsteps, several figures wearing black robes appeared and surrounded the alleyway. The aura of these figures were extremely powerful and the aura of the stooping elder leading them was even more terrifying.

As the two lumps of spirit fire pulsed, Hun Qianyun opened his mouth and said, "The prey has entered the magic array... Begin the elimination."

Chapter 80: Who Is Using Embroidery Needles To Poke Your Lord Dog?!

Boom boom!

The black energy was just like a black mist that rose from under the ground and instantly enveloped the entire magic array. A terrifying desolate atmosphere pervaded the alleyway.

The expressions of the five Battle-Kings were grave as they formed a circle around Xushi, who was carrying the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. Their mission this time was to protect the Elixir Cuisine, so they must focus all their attention on protecting Xushi, who was carrying it.

The black energy enveloping the air, under the guidance of the two black circular magic arrays rotating in the anticlockwise direction, gradually formed a gigantic simulacrum above them. This simulacrum was filled with an extremely terrifying aura.

"This is the King of Hell's Soul Rending Array! It's the Soul Sect's secret magic array... Why would it appear in this place?!" Xushi's eyes were filled with incredulity.

Suddenly, he seemed to have thought of something. His pupils constricted as he looked toward the distance. There, he saw several figures wrapped in black robes appearing.

"You're from the Soul Sect?! Are you here to ruin this Elixir

Cuisine?" Xushi shouted in a stern voice.

"Do it, don't waste your breath on him. Remember, there must be no survivors... Our identity must not be exposed." A hoarse voice as ear-piercing as gravel being grinded rang out.

The figures wrapped in black robes did not say anything as they swiftly moved toward every corner of the magic array and completely surrounded Xushi and the others.

Hun Qianyun, whose eyes seemed to have two lumps of spirit fire pulsating within, slowly walked out from the shadows with his back hunched over.

At that moment, Xushi had already completely fallen into despair. Even though he was acting cautiously, he still fell for King Yu's trap.

Xushi had always assumed that no matter how insane King Yu was, he would only send some powerful assassins to ruin the Elixir Cuisine. However, he never expected King Yu would actually conspire with experts from the sects!

The sects were able to contend against the imperial court for so many years precisely because of their mysterious methods and secrets. Thanks to that, they were able to forcibly survive under Emperor Changfeng's continuous attacks year after year.

Every single cultivator within the empire was well aware that the

sects were powerful and not to be trifled with.

Magic array was a method that the sects were specialized in using.

"King Yu actually dared to conspire with experts from the sects... Is he not afraid that His Majesty will find out?!" Xushi clenched his teeth and angrily roared.

Hun Qianyun lightly exclaimed his surprise as his line of sight shifted toward Xushi. He began to laugh as he said, "How would the emperor find out? Once we eliminate you... No one else will know."

Xushi wanted to continue speaking, but the experts from the sects were already tired of wasting their breath on him. They immediately triggered their true energy, and the black simulacrum above Xushi and the others suddenly launched an attack at them.

A gigantic palm formed completely with black energy was viciously heading toward Xushi. Its energy fluctuation was extremely violent.

"Block it!" Xushi angrily roared with bloodshot eyes.

A Battle-King loudly shouted as the true energy throughout his body practically gained substance. He rose into the air and launched his attack toward the palm with all his strength.

However, this tremendous attack by the Battle-King was like a mayfly trying to shake a tree. It did not cause even the slightest damage to the palm.

Bang!

With a loud noise, that Battle-King was ruthlessly smashed into the ground. The impact produced an intense tremor and cracks appeared around the area...

The true energy within the body of the Battle-King completely dissipated. He was actually swatted to death by the palm strike!

Xushi suddenly felt a chill in his heart. As expected, the might of the magic array was extremely powerful.

Hun Qianyun faintly smiled as he pointed toward Xushi with a withered finger and said, "They... must all die."

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The crown prince was sitting cross-legged within his palace. His eyes were closed as he tried to calm himself and quietly cultivate. However, after cultivating for a while, he still could not help but open his eyes and heavily breathe out.

"Fuuu... I wonder how Xushi is doing. My eyelid has been twitching for a while, and I've been having a bad feeling." The crown prince was frowning as he stood up and looked out of the

window.

He originally thought asking Owner Bu to cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup and offering it to his father was a good move. However, he did not expect a trick employed by King Yu would turn it into a bad move that sabotaged him.

The crown prince was feeling somewhat helpless as well and could not help but feel regretful. He was currently between a rock and a hard place and could only hope that Xushi was able to safely bring back that Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. Only then, he would be able to avoid being hoisted by his own petard.

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King Yu's manor.

King Yu was standing in front of the fish pond with crystal powder in his hands as he contentedly fed the fish. As he watched the fish within the pond continuously fighting over the crystal powder, the smile on his face became colder and colder.

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Sensing a slightly stifling feeling, Bu Fang—who was curled up on a chair—was slightly frowning as he stood up. He walked toward the entrance of the store and looked toward the direction of the alleyway's entrance.

What he saw was a gigantic humanoid simulacrum blocking the entrance of the alleyway.

"What are they doing over there? Don't they know that what they're doing is hindering my business?" Bu Fang was frowning and was somewhat displeased.

The location of his store was already out of the way. Of all the places to stir up trouble, these people had to chose the entrance of the alleyway. Were they purposely making life difficult for him?

Ouyang Xiaoyi curiously stuck out her head as well. When she saw the towering and majestic simulacrum, her rosy face was filled with astonishment.

"Smelly boss, what are they doing?" Xiaoyi puzzledly asked.

"They're stirring up trouble," Bu Fang simply said as he patted Xiaoyi's head. The moment he finished speaking, his eyes narrowed as the gigantic simulacrum suddenly exploded and a figure shot toward the direction of the store.

"Owner Bu, save me!" A heart-wrenching shout rang out.

Xushi was charging toward them in a miserable state. He was bleeding all over his body and one of his arms was completely broken. As he made the mad dash toward them, blood was continuously dripping. However, his other arm was still tightly holding the scalding claypot.

Bang! When Xushi arrived in front of Bu Fang, he was already completely exhausted. As he knelt on the floor, blood was gushing from his mouth and he was bleeding from his arm. He was shivering as he held onto the claypot. He did not let even a single drop of chicken soup spill from the claypot.

Frightened by Xushi's wretched appearance, Ouyang Xiaoyi hurriedly hid behind Bu Fang and timidly peeked out.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he looked toward the simulacrum that was slowly heading toward his direction and looked toward Xushi who was bathed in blood. For some reason, he was suddenly feeling very angry.

"They actually dare to beat up my customer like this?! This is clearly an act of provocation toward Fang Fang's Little Store!" Bu Fang expressionlessly said but his voice was very cold.

"O... Owner Bu... The Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup... must not be ruined!" Xushi trembled as he tried to pass the scalding claypot to Bu Fang. His eyes contained a trace of imploration and helplessness.

A burst of black energy suddenly gushed out from his body and instantly covered Xushi's skin. Black smoke was seeping out from his facial orifices.

Bu Fang's eyes focused onto Xushi. He felt the sliver of imploration in his eyes and could not help but reach out for the

Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup.

However... a black spear was suddenly shot toward them at close to supersonic speed and directly pierced through the claypot.

With a loud crack, the claypot broke into pieces. At that moment, time seemed to have stopped for Bu Fang and Xushi.

The spear pierced through the claypot and directly headed toward Blacky—who was soundly asleep—and collided with its head.

With a bang... The spear broke into pieces and Blacky drowsily opened its sleepy eyes.

"Son of a... Who used embroidery needle to poke your lord dog?! Step forward right now!"

Blacky puzzledly looked around the surroundings and its doggy eyes finally locked onto the simulacrum at the distance.

Xushi watched with a blank stare as the claypot broke into pieces. The Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup spilled all over and the crystal clear, jelly-like chicken meat rolled on the ground...

With a long sigh, Xushi closed his eyes in despair as smoke seeped out from his facial orifices... His entire soul was completely incinerated.

"You must be the owner of the mysterious store..." A figure wrapped in a black robe walked over. Behind him was the simulacrum of the King of Hell controlled by the gigantic magic array.

"Were you the one who killed him? Was the soup ruined by you?" Bu Fang coldly turned his head and said as he expressionlessly looked at the person in the black robe.

The spirit fire within Hun Qianyun's eyes lightly pulsated as he chuckled and said with a hoarse voice, "They say that your store is extremely mysterious, and even a seventh grade Battle-Saint like Xiao Meng was repelled. The might of this King of Hell's Soul Rending Array is not inferior to a Battle-Saint. I really want to test out the depth of your store... and pay homage to the two little guys that died."

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he glanced toward Hun Qianyun and coldly said, "I asked whether you were the one who killed him, whether you were the one who ruined the soup... You only need to answer yes or no!"

"You're really asking for it! How dare you be so arrogant when you're standing in front of my King of Hell's Soul Rending Array! So what if I were the one who killed him? So what if I ruined the soup?" Hun Qianyun was somewhat angry as well. True energy suddenly gushed out from his body and the simulacrum of the King of Hell became even more solid.

Blacky lazily got up from the ground. It glanced at the simulacrum of the King of Hell and rolled its eyes.

"Even if the King of Hell really climbed out from the netherworld, this lord dog wouldn't be afraid. What's an imitation like you trying to play at?" A gentle and pleasant voice of a masculine male suddenly rang out from Blacky's mouth and echoed within the alleyway.

Chapter 81: This Black Dog Is Really Arrogant!

"Who?! Who's there?!"

When Hun Qianyun heard the extremely haughty voice, the spirit fire within his eye sockets suddenly swelled up and his aura became even more terrifying. He scanned his surroundings to find the owner of the voice.

However, he was completely unable to find anyone who had the confidence to say those words among those present. The customers within the store were all cowering before his glare. That mysterious person was definitely not hiding among them.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together with a gloomy expression on his face. The ground littered with the chicken soup was emanating hot air. The hot air was naturally dissipated as the cold wind blew, accompanied by the rich fragrance of the chicken soup.

"Killing intent toward the host has been detected. Protection mode activated."

A mechanical voice rang out as a gigantic white figure swiftly rushed out of the store and landed next to Bu Fang with a loud noise. Whitey stood straight while giving off a red light with its mechanical eyes.

"A puppet?!" Hun Qianyun could not find the owner of the voice,

so he gave up on searching. He was slightly surprised when his eyes shifted toward Whitey who appeared next to Bu Fang.

Even though Hun Qianyun had heard of the the store's deeds, he had never really put in the effort to find out more. He only knew that the store was very powerful and could repel the seventh grade Battle-Saint, Xiao Meng. However, he did not know the source of its strength. From the looks of it... could this puppet be the reason?

Blacky slowly approached while striding like a cat. When it realized Whitey was standing next to Bu Fang, it rolled its eyes and stopped moving.

"You killed my customer and ruined my dish... Unforgivable!" Bu Fang took a deep breath. His eyes focused onto Hun Qianyun and became somewhat cold.

"Hmph! What an arrogant tone... This old man shall test the capability of this store of yours today!" Hun Qianyun sneered as he took a step back. As he waved his withered arm, the gigantic simulacrum of the King of Hell suddenly moved.

As the black mist surged, the simulacrum raised its hand and a black spear appeared once more. Black mist was encircling the spear while the energy violently fluctuated.

With a loud tearing sound, the simulacrum of the King of Hell forcefully threw the spear. It rapidly headed toward Bu Fang's position while whistling through the air. It was as if the air was being torn apart.

Whitey's mechanical eyes were flashing as its figure moved in front of Bu Fang. It raised up its gigantic mechanical arms and threw a punch toward the black spear flying toward them.

A powerful explosion rang out and a squall was instantly created. The entire alleyway seemed to be enveloped by the black mist. Within an instant, the alleyway was completely engulfed.

The customers staying within Bu Fang's store were all startled by the terrifying noise. However, the surprising thing was that the black smoke unexpectedly did not drift into the store. It was as if the smoke was isolated by a layer of protective membrane.

Hun Qianyun sneered as he watched from a distance. Even a seventh grade Battle-Saint would suffer if they tried to receive the attack of the King of Hell's Void Spear head-on. What could a mere puppet do?

Boom!

Within the black smoke, only two sources of red light could be seen. Suddenly, they turned into a cold purple color. A gust appeared and completely dispersed the black smoke.

Once the black smoke completely dissipated, the scene of the aftermath was revealed. When Hun Qianyun saw the scene, he was extremely shocked and the spirit fire within his eyes wildly palpitated.

Whitey's entire body was releasing a metallic luster, and its mechanical eyes had turned into a cold purple color. Both of its arms were crossed in front of its body, which seemed to have blocked the King of Hell's Void Spear from before. There was actually no trace of damage on Whitey at all.

Bu Fang was indifferently standing behind Whitey. He was expressionless as he looked at Hun Qianyun without any signs of worry or fear on his face.

"Combat mode activated!" Whitey's mechanical voice became even colder. Its purple eyes seemed to be overflowing with killing intent.

With a humming sound, purple-eyed Whitey's figure shot out in an instant. Its speed was almost impossible to be captured by the naked eye. A stifling feeling suddenly assailed toward Hun Qianyun.

Hun Qianyun angrily snorted as he held out his withered hand. Borrowing the power of the simulacrum of the King of Hell behind him, he controlled the black energy to encircle his body and sent a palm strike toward Whitey.

As the two of them collided together, an intense energy shockwave leaked out and cracks appeared on the walls of the alleyway, as if they were going to collapse from the energy collision.

Hun Qianyun's expression suddenly changed. If they continued fighting with this level of power, the soldiers patrolling within the imperial city as well as experts would be alerted. He needed to finish things quickly!

"Hurry up and finish off the owner! I'll stall the puppet!" As an old-timer, Hun Qianyun naturally knew about capturing the ringleader first to capture the bandits. The puppet was obviously trying to protect Bu Fang. Once Bu Fang was dead, the puppet would lose its protection target and stop moving.

The six Battle-Kings standing behind Hun Qianyun understood his intentions as well.

The King of Hell's simulacrum was heading toward Bu Fang step by step. As the gigantic simulacrum moved, the alleyway was almost bursting from the seams.

Bu Fang indifferently watched as the simulacrum approached. He patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head and made her hide inside the store. With the store's protection, she should be safe.

"Is this brat seeking death? Why is he not running away even though he's facing the King of Hell's simulacrum controlled by us?" one of the Battle-Kings controlling the magic array said in surprise.

"He's probably so frightened his legs went weak and he has no strength to run away! Once the King of Hell's Soul Rending Array is activated, it's equivalent to a seventh grade Battle-Saint!" another Battle-King said with a chortle.

"Why isn't that brat pissing himself in fear yet? How could a third grade thrash like him withstand the intimidation aura of a Battle-Saint?"

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Bu Fang completely ignored the mocking words of the Battle-Kings. The so-called intimidation aura of a Battle-Saint was completely ineffective to him. Thanks to the existence of the system, he was completely unaffected by any intimidation aura and he was completely unworried about his own safety.

Blacky slowly approached while striding like a cat, as it gracefully and refinedly stopped between Bu Fang and the King of Hell's simulacrum.

As Blacky raised its head and looked at the gigantic simulacrum of the King of Hell formed with black energy, a trace of disdain flashed in its eyes.

"Shoo shoo shoo... Where did this big black dog come from! Get out of here!" A Battle-King speechlessly looked at the dog sitting between Bu Fang and them. He was utterly dumbfounded as he hurriedly tried to chase Blacky away.

They could not feel even a trace of spirit energy on this dog and its appearance was quite ordinary as well. It looked just like a commonplace dog. It was no wonder this Battle-King was unable to recognize it.

"You idiot... Are you talking to this lord dog?" Blacky haughtily raised its head as a gentle and masculine voice filled with mockery rang out.

The six Battle-Kings were stunned... Their thoughts went into disarray for a moment.

"What the! Is this dog really... speaking?!"

"You idiot... Did you just tell this lord dog to get lost? Are you tired of living? Do you really think you can heckle this lord dog just because you have this King of Hell knockoff?" Blacky continued and said.

"This big black dog that became intelligent is really arrogant!" The six Battle-Kings were immediately riled up. A mere dog actually dared to act arrogantly in front of them. It was simply too unforgivable.

"Damn dog! If I don't cook you up today, I'll follow your surname!" A bad-tempered Battle-King was unable to bear it any longer. He angrily shouted and immediately created a black spear with the King of Hell's simulacrum.

The spear was sent piercing toward Blacky with a whistling sound.

"You actually dare to call this knockoff the King of Hell's Void

Spear? Its power is no better than an embroidery needle... Even this lord dog wouldn't use it for scratching an itch," Blacky said as it rolled its eyes.

As the black spear brutally collided with Blacky's head, Blacky's ears slightly flapped and the spear immediately broke into pieces. It turned into black energy and dispersed into the air.

The bodies of the six Battle-Kings froze. What happened just now? Were they seeing things...?

"Even though it isn't that damned old man from the underworld, this lord dog still hates this thing. Since you bothered this lord dog's nap, all of you... shall die," Blacky indifferently said as it stretched out an exquisite and cute paw. The paw slowly flew toward the King of Hell's simulacrum.

Bu Fang slightly raised his eyebrows. From his point of view, during the moment Blacky extended his paw, it instantly expanded into a gigantic paw that covered the sky.

Blacky glanced at the King of Hell's simulacrum underneath the paw and disdainfully snorted, then the paw gently descended.

Chapter 82: Drawing From The God Of Cooking Set, The Imperious Kitchen Knife!

There were no startling explosions or violent squalls.

Underneath Blacky's paw, that simulacrum of the King of Hell immediately broke into pieces and silently dissipated.

During the moment Blacky struck, the minds of the six Battle-Kings almost shattered from fear. They could not gather even the slightest courage to resist as they endured the terrifying intimidation aura.

A harmless-looking dog turned into a murderous Yama in the blink of an eye. This change caused the six Battle-Kings to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

With a breaking sound, cracks appeared throughout the magic array and then it exploded into pieces. The six Battle-Kings were vomiting blood from their mouths while kneeling on the ground. They wanted to run away but their bodies refused to obey.

Crunch!

As Blacky's paw completely landed, the sound of bones being crushed sounded out and the ground slightly shook for a moment.

At a distance away, Hun Qianyun was so scared that his soul was

about to fly out. "God damn... So, the most terrifying thing within the store is not this purple-eyed puppet in front of me, but the big black dog lying in front of the entrance?!"

"Where exactly did this store come from? A single dog's paw smashed the King of Hell's Soul Rending Array into pieces and squashed six Battle-Kings to death... What exactly is the big black dog's cultivation level? Is it actually a ninth grade supreme spirit beast?"

"A ninth grade supreme spirit beast is... guarding the door? Are you fricking kidding me?"

Hun Qianyun was feeling so depressed he wanted to vomit blood. He could not help but regret his actions. He must have bumped his head when he decided to antagonize the store. In the first place, the mission was already completed... However, he courted disaster when he aimed to get rid of the store at the same time.

Now, it was a situation where he went for wool and came home shorn, losing six Battle-Kings instead. Oh... There was a chance that he might even die here as well.

Blacky's paw gradually restored back into its original exquisite size once more. It disdainfully shook its paw, then glanced toward Hun Qianyun and rolled its eyes. It strided like a cat toward its usual position, lay down and went back to sleep.

Bu Fang seemed to be already well aware of Blacky's personality. It was not the first time that this lazy dog had immediately went

back to sleep after showing off.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was standing within the store with her hands holding onto the door frame. Her large eyes were glittering as she looked toward Blacky with eyes filled with adoration.

"Blacky... is really awesome! I wonder what breed of dog is it?"

Blacky's closed eyes moved and slightly opened. When Blacky noticed a pair of glittering eyes staring at it, it immediately snorted and turned over its head.

"Don't keep staring at this lord dog. This lord dog is not interested in human lolis... Bark."

Bu Fang expressionlessly walked a few steps toward the large crater caused by Blacky. It was in the shape of a dog's paw and a faint trace of black energy was rising from within.

Within the large crater, the bodies of six Battle-Kings were completely squashed into meat paste. They were definitely done for...

At a distance, Hun Qianyun's strength immediately fell after losing the King of Hell's Soul Rending Formation's support. After dropping out of the Battle-Saint level, he was completely not an opponent of the purple-eyed Whitey. After getting struck by a punch, he was brutally flung into a wall of the alleyway and buried underneath a pile of rubble.

Whitey's eyes were flashing purple and filled with a cold, killing intent as it headed toward Hun Qianyun.

Suddenly, a gigantic lump of spirit fire rose from the pile of rubble. A figure was enveloped within the fire as it dashed away and instantly disappeared into the distance.

When Hun Qianyun realized the current situation was irreversible, he used one of Soul Sect's secret technique to escape. The price of using this secret technique was great, and he only used it since he had no other choice. Otherwise, he would be beaten to death by the purple-eyed Whitey.

With its target gone, Whitey went into a daze for a few seconds. It raised its mechanical arms and scratched its bald head. Then the purple color in its eyes subsided and became red once more.

Looking at the messy alleyway, Bu Fang pursed his lips. From the looks of it, he would have to ask the crown prince to repair the alleyway when the latter came over or he would not be able to continue his business.

Xushi's corpse had already mummified. His soul was completely incinerated and his skin had shriveled up.

Bu Fang lightly sighed while feeling somewhat helpless. He was dumbfounded and could only let the crown prince resolve it himself.

When the customers hiding within the store saw that the combat had ended, they bid farewell with Bu Fang and hurriedly left. Finally, only Bu Fang and Ouyang Xiaoyi remained in the store.

After a while, the imperial city's patrol squads arrived one after another. Xiao Meng had a sullen expression on his face as he arrived at the alleyway filled with debris.

"The battle seemed to have been quite disastrous," Xiao Meng thought as he looked down from the sky. When saw the large pit in the shape of a dog's paw, his pupils constricted as he fearfully glanced toward Blacky who was lying at the entrance.

He was slightly startled when he saw Xushi corpse and helplessly sighed.

He sent someone to inform the crown prince and then began to clean up the battlefield.

"This dog paw is truly overbearing. To be able to directly squash six Battle-Kings into meat paste... Their identities can't even be confirmed." Xiao Meng was somewhat unable to react.

When Xiao Meng saw the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup spilled all over the ground, he was able to deduce the general situation and his eyes became somewhat cold.

"From the way Xushi died, this should be caused by the Soul

Sect's technique. Are the sects involved with the struggle between the crown prince and King Yu? This isn't a good thing."

Xiao Meng softly muttered.

After a while, the crown prince hurriedly arrived with his subordinates. When he saw the chicken soup spilled onto the floor and Xushi mummified corpse, he could not conceal the sorrow on his face. He clenched his teeth while his facial muscles trembled.

He silently retrieved Xushi's corpse and promised Bu Fang to repair the damaged alleyway. Then the groups left one after another.

The alleyway became low profile once more.

Of course, that was only true if you do not look at the broken pieces of quartzite flooring everywhere and the large pit in the shape of a dog's paw...

After Ouyang Xiaoyi left the store and headed back to the Ouyang manor, Bu Fang closed up the store and ended the business for the day.

Just as he finished closing up the store, the system's solemn voice rang out within his mind.

"Congratulations to the host for earning over four thousand crystals. For completing a short term objective, you shall soon

receive a system reward. The system reward is being released..."

Bu Fang was startled for a moment, then the corners of his mouth curled up and a smile appeared on his deadpan face. He finally managed to level up...

It took him so much time to earn four thousand crystals. It was not easy, but he was able to endure it.

After completing the short term objective, he could level up and obtain more strength. Even though his fighting capability was very weak, his cultivation level finally caught up and that was enough.

"Young man who aims to become the God of Cooking, congratulations for completing a short term sales mission. You've taken another firm step toward your objective of becoming the God of Cooking. Reward: cooking method of the Red Braised Meat, training method of the Big Dipper Carving Technique, and one fragment of the God of Cooking set."

"Congratulations to the host for gathering four fragments of the God of Cooking set. One part of the God of Cooking set will be randomly drawn."

"Commencing random drawing. Drawing is in progress..."

"Drawing completed. Congratulations to the host for obtaining the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife (God of Cooking set)."

The succession of words from the system overwhelmed Bu Fang. However, once he calmed down and combed through the information, he soon clarified everything.

"The dish obtained this time is Red Braised Meat?" When Bu Fang heard the system announced the name, he could not help but lick his lips as he fantasized steaming pieces of rosy meat contained inside a claypot. The glittering grease was making him feel gluttonous. Red Braised Meat... was one of his favorite dishes.

The appearance of a carving technique was a pleasant surprise to Bu Fang as well. He had always been weak at carving. Now, it was a good chance to make up for this shortcoming.

However, the greatest surprise was the God of Cooking set that he had been looking forward for a long time...

"Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife... Is it a kitchen knife made from dragon bones? What an imperious name."

Chapter 83: Levelling Up And Unlocking New Functions

True Energy Cultivation Level: Fourth Grade (Has already achieved the ability to manifest true energy outside of the body. As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, make use of your Battle-Spirit level of true energy to reform ingredients. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Yet to be unlocked

Skills: Level One Meteor Knife Technique (90/100), Level One Big Dipper Carving Technique (0/100)

Tools: Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife (God of Cooking set)

God of Cooking overall rating: Junior Chef (Capable of using true energy to cook and process ingredients. Started learning knife and carving techniques. The road to becoming the God of Cooking has already opened for you. Work hard, young man.)

System Level: Four Stars (Conversion ratio is at fifty percent. The host is permitted to carry out the capture of ingredients.)

Bu Fang concentrated and examined the system panel that appeared in his mind. As he completed the missions, the system's

level became four stars and the conversion ratio reached fifty percent as well.

This would also mean that his levelling speed would increase substantially. However, reaching fifth grade Battle-King would require ten thousand crystals. Since the system's energy conversion ratio was fifty percent, he would need to earn twenty thousand crystals to level up...

Twenty thousand... There was no expression on Bu Fang's face. He was dumbfounded. With the current price of his dishes, how much time would it take for him to achieve a turnover of twenty thousand crystals?

"Forget it, thinking about stuff like this is pointless. I might as well study the newly levelled system."

"System, what is 'The host is permitted to carry out the capture of ingredients' supposed to mean?" When Bu Fang saw the last piece of information, he was quite puzzled and could not help but ask the system.

"Before four stars, the ingredients used by the host are all provided by the system. After four stars, the host can choose to capture the ingredients by himself. The system will set the price of the dishes cooked using ingredients captured by the host," the system solemnly replied.

Eh... Ah? Bu Fang was stunned for a moment. How was a chef with no fighting capability like him supposed to capture

ingredients by himself?

"The Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife from the God of Cooking set has a suppression effect on most ingredients. I believe the host can do it. Work hard, young man!" the system said.

Bu Fang felt that this was a serious issue that he must thoroughly understand, so he continued to clarify the doubts in his mind. "System, where am I supposed to go to capture ingredients? Around the empire?"

"The system will provide the teleportation function. The host can be sent to the gathering location of ingredients within the Wildlands."

It seemed really formidable by the sound of it, but was there really no problem with sending him to the gathering location of ingredients? Bu Fang was insecure about the entire matter for some reason.

Just when Bu Fang was thinking about these problems, the true energy within his body suddenly started to seethe. His eyes slightly lit up as he knew this was the sign of a breakthrough.

The difference between a third grade Battle-maniac and a fourth grade Battle-Spirit was presence of the true energy vortex within the dantian. This true energy vortex was equivalent to the soul of the true energy. It controls all of the circulation of the true energy within the body, so the fourth grade was called Battle-Spirit.

At that moment, Bu Fang felt a warm feeling continuously emanating from his dantian. The true energy within his body was rapidly gathering in that location and slowly forming a vortex. When Bu Fang inspected the interior of his body, he saw a true energy vortex that resembled the milky way spiraling within his dantian.

There was no expression on Bu Fang's face, but the trace of happiness in his eyes could not be concealed. He held out his hand and waved it in the air. As he exerted his will, a burst of true energy surged out from his true energy vortex. After becoming a Battle-Spirit, Bu Fang became more proficient at controlling true energy.

After playing around with true energy for a while, Bu Fang got used to the changes of the true energy and his joyful mood gradually calmed down as well. Then he directed his attention toward the God of Cooking set.

"System, what about the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife? How do I take it out?" Bu Fang asked.

"The system is currently delivering the item. Please do not urge," the system solemnly replied.

Bu Fang was immediately silenced and he did not know how to respond either. However, a speck of light soon appeared in the space in front of him and started moving around until a mysterious magic array was drawn in the air.

With a humming sound, something seemed to be slowly emerging from the magic array.

Roar!!

Bu Fang was staring at the magic array. Suddenly, a deafening cry of a dragon sounded out, startling him and rocked his eardrums.

Within the magic array, a pitch-black kitchen knife slowly emerged and was floating in the air. A small golden dragon was bellowing while encircling the kitchen knife. The dragon's cry came from the mouth of the divine dragon's simulacrum.

An intimidating aura instantly enveloped the store. Bu Fang's body and mind felt heavy, as if he was facing a towering mountain. It was almost difficult to breathe.

Outside of the store, Blacky was having a small rest when it suddenly opened its eyes. Its expression was grave and extremely alert as it looked into the store.

However, it seemed to have thought of something. With a roll of its eyes, it lay down and went back to sleep.

The golden divine dragon's simulacrum swiftly flew out and instantly bit Bu Fang's wrist. Bu Fang felt a slight pain at his wrist and a drop of bright red blood flowed out from the wound. The drop of blood was then enveloped by the divine dragon's

simulacrum and slowly flew toward the kitchen knife.

Lastly, Bu Fang's blood was swallowed by the kitchen knife. The pressure that was like a towering mountain instantly dissipated and the divine dragon's simulacrum disappeared as well.

On the wrist that was bitten, a simplified version of the divine dragon's image appeared. Bu Fang's mind seemed to have formed a link with the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. With a single thought, he would be able to store the kitchen knife within the image on his wrist.

"The Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife (God of Cooking set) has been delivered. Would the host please accept the delivery," the system simply said.

Bu Fang's eyes became focused as he grabbed hold of the plain and unadorned Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife floating in the air. A harmonious feeling suddenly spread from the depth of his heart. With a flick of his finger and a snap of his wrist, Bu Fang easily performed a extremely magnificent knife flip.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he held the kitchen knife. As expected of the God of Cooking set, it was easy to use.

At first, Bu Fang assumed that the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife would be a very gaudy kitchen knife made from golden dragon bones. He did not expect its actual appearance to actually be an unassuming stainless steel kitchen knife.

"Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife: A part of the God of Cooking set. It is made from the bones of the golden divine dragon and possesses the intimidating aura of the divine dragon. The aura has a suppression effect against all spirit beasts and has an execution effect on all spirit beasts under seventh grade. The host can change the form of the kitchen knife by expending half of your true energy. The kitchen knife has a spirit energy boost effect when processing ingredients, and prevents the loss of an ingredient's spirit energy," the system said.

"It can change its form as well?" Bu Fang was slightly surprised. "It's part of the God of Cooking set after all. It's extraordinary as expected. I shouldn't regard this kitchen knife the same way I regard other kitchen knives."

Furthermore, Bu Fang suddenly thought, "The system is allowing me to head toward the Wildlands to capture the ingredients. The biggest reason should have something to do with obtaining the God of Cooking set. "

With this Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife around, he could execute any spirit beast under seventh grade. Even with his fighting capability, he was invincible while facing any spirit beast under seventh grade as long as he was holding this kitchen knife.

"After the system levelled up to four stars, I managed to gather four fragments of the God of Cooking set and obtained the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife... Right after, I was permitted to capture ingredients by myself. What a coincidence that everything perfectly fell into place." Bu Fang chuckled.

Personally capturing ingredients was an essential training for a chef. Only by having an in-depth understanding of the ingredients, would a chef be able to invest more emotions into the ingredients and cook even more delicious dishes.

Bu Fang had always understood that the system was only there to assist him. It only opened the door leading to the path of becoming the God of Cooking. In order to become the God of Cooking standing at the summit of the fantasy world's food chain... Bu Fang still needed to continue working hard. Practicing his knife and carving techniques were all for the sake of that goal.

After clearing his mind, Bu Fang became expressionless once more. The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was rapidly spinning on his palm. Then as his eyes became focused and exerted his will, the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife transformed into a wisp of green smoke and flowed into the mark on his wrist.

"I'll try out the dishes unlocked by the system first. Red braised meat... The red braised meat provided by the system should be rather unusual," Bu Fang muttered after storing the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife.

Chapter 84: Cooking Red Braised Meat With True Energy Culinary

Bu Fang did not expect the dish unlocked this time to be Red Braised Meat. He still remembered the Braised Spirit Pork he tasted in the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. Even though Bu Fang found many flaws in the end, he had to admit the taste was pretty good.

As a chef, it was impossible for Bu Fang to not have tasted Red Braised Meat before and he was quite familiar with its cooking method as well. However, he did not immediately get started as the system's Red Braised Meat might have a different cooking method.

Bu Fang called out the system's description of the Red Braised Meat.

"Cooking method of Red Braised Meat: The use of true energy culinary is required during the cooking process. It tests the host's control over true energy as well as the handling of ingredients. The meat used is from the fifth grade spirit beast, Heavenly Punishment Deer, from the Wildlands. The meat has a rich aroma, but easily spoils and becomes inedible if the host makes a mistake during the handling process."

The cooking method provided by the system for the Red Braised Meat was indeed different from the ordinary method. Bu Fang was somewhat surprised that true energy culinary was actually required during the cooking process. Would all of the dishes unlocked in the future require the use of true energy culinary?

Furthermore, the meat used for this dish was actually venison instead of pork, which was the traditional ingredient for this dish. This was also greatly out of Bu Fang's expectations.

Bu Fang stopped in front of the cupboard and opened it. A chunk of reddish venison was placed inside. It might be due to the fact that this venison was from another world, but its subcutaneous fat was slightly thicker than other venison that Bu Fang had seen before and was somewhat similar to pork. However, there would definitely be a difference in the tenderness of the two kinds of meat.

A strange fragrance was emanating from the venison. It was a type of fragrance that did not evoke a person's appetite, but would induce them to smell the aroma.

Bu Fang took out the venison and carefully placed it on the chopping board. As he exerted his will, the pitch-black Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife appeared in his hand.

The kitchen knife spun around in his hand for a while, then Bu Fang scraped the surface of the venison and removed a layer of miscellaneous fat. Next, he brought out some spring water and soaked the venison for a while.

After hitting the venison with the back of the knife, Bu Fang expressionlessly lifted up the kitchen knife.

There was only one thing to note when handling the Heavenly

Punishment Deer, it was being fast while ensuring the smoothness of the slices. This would allow the fragrance and the spirit energy within the venison to coexist in harmony and prevent the meat from becoming astringent.

This was the first time that Bu Fang used the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, but there was no sense of ineptness in the slightest. The speed of his hands were very fast as he sliced the meat. With his Level One Meteor Knife Technique close to culmination, this was not difficult for him.

Ton ton ton ton!

The clear sound of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife making contact with the chopping board resounded inside the kitchen. Within a short while, the chunk of venison was sliced into pieces. Each piece was smoothly cut and the handling was almost perfect.

Bu Fang poured the boiling spring water into a bowl with the venison. The pieces of venison were completely immersed in hot water.

Then Bu Fang began preparation for other matters. This time, he did not fill the wok with oil since he could use the venison's grease. If he added oil, the different smell of the oil would affect the taste of the dish.

Letting the wok heat up, Bu Fang waited until the temperature was just enough to scald his hand. He then removed the venison that was blanched in hot water, and extracted the moisture from

each piece of venison using true energy before throwing them into the wok.

As these pieces of venison entered the wok, a sizzling sound rang out and a rich fragrance continued to exude from the venison.

Bu Fang was not bewitched by the aroma. He took out a block of brown sugar prepared by the system, crushed it into powder form and turned his attention to the wok.

When grease started seeping out from the venison, Bu Fang poured the brown sugar into the wok and started stir-frying with a wok spatula.

There was a certain rhythm with Bu Fang's stir-frying. This was from his experiences as a chef.

Once the brown sugar melted into syrup form and enveloped each piece of venison, the venison that was originally whitish turned bright red in color. The meat was emanating a rich fragrance without restraint, which had completely enveloped the kitchen.

After pouring spring water into the wok, Bu Fang placed a lid over the wok. At that moment, he became serious as well since the true energy culinary portion of the cooking process was up next.

He circulated the true energy vortex residing within his dantian and directed his true energy into the wok to enclose each piece of

venison.

The bubbling sauce within the wok was causing the pieces of venison to wobble, and the subcutaneous fat of the venison was glistening like jade. The venison was continuously releasing a meaty aroma along with a rich fragrance.

Once the sauce within the wok had mostly evaporated, Bu Fang withdrew his true energy. He removed the lid of the wok and began stir-frying. The sauce that was much thicker than before completely enveloped each piece of venison.

After adding salt and soy sauce, the meaty aroma finally stabilized. The meaty aroma was accompanied with a rich fragrance while intertwined with a sweet scent ... Just by smelling this aroma, Bu Fang felt a sense of hunger and was salivating.

Taking out a blue and white porcelain plate, Bu Fang poured the Red Braised Meat onto the plate. The new dish was successfully completed.

Even though true energy was needed during the cooking process, Bu Fang was far more proficient compared to the previous time when he cooked the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. It might have something to do with his breakthrough.

As Bu Fang carried the plate of Red Braised Meat out of the kitchen and into the dining area, he was suddenly startled.

The reason was Blacky was already sitting at one of the tables with blinking eyes as it stared in Bu Fang's direction... More precisely, the plate of Red Braised Meat in Bu Fang's hands while letting its tongue hang out.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched. "This lazy dog, it's already eager to eat from smelling the aroma of meat. However, the fragrance of the Red Braised Meat is indeed extremely enticing. It's even superior than the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs."

Bu Fang took out another plate and placed it in front of Blacky before he started scrutinizing the plate of Red Braised Meat. Or perhaps calling it Red Braised Venison might be more appropriate.

White steam was rising above the Red Braised Meat. The rind of the venison was rosy. The next layer of fat was white and not greasy. The final layer of lean meat was crystal clear and beautiful.

After giving one piece to Blacky, Bu Fang picked up another piece of Red Braised Venison and put it in his mouth.

The flavor of this dish was very unique. Once the meat passed through his lips, the faint sweetness of the sauce blossomed in his mouth. Immediately, he subconsciously bit down on the venison's rind. The flavor of the meat exploded like a bomb and instantly enveloped his mouth and taste buds. With a slurp, the entire piece of venison slithered down his throat. However, an urge to eat another piece immediately sprouted within his heart.

In this manner, Bu Fang consecutively ate half the plate of

venison, but he was still unsatisfied and completely unable to stop himself. It was as if he could not taste the flavor of the meat each time and he wanted to try once more.

Blacky was also gobbling down the meat with narrowed eyes filled with satisfaction. And so, the man and the dog soon finished off the entire plate of meat.

Satisfiedly curled up on a chair, Bu Fang breathed out a mouthful of hot air.

Blacky returned to its position at the entrance and cozily went back to sleep. Sleeping immediately after eating... That was indeed Blacky's style.

"After using true energy culinary, the taste of the venison was simply too good to describe! The Heavenly Punishment Deer's scent and the aroma of the meat had completely fused together! This flavor created a sort of uncontrollable and completely unstoppable feeling!" When Bu Fang recalled the taste of the Red Braised Meat, he could not help but stick out his tongue and lick his lips.

After resting for a while, Bu Fang placed the plate into the automatic dishwasher and headed for his room with a satisfied mood.

It was undeniable that sleeping after eating was sometimes a type of happiness.

However, just as Bu Fang reached the door to his room, the system's voice resounded within his mind once more.

Abrupt Mission: Would the host please get ready to proceed with your first ingredient capture by tomorrow. The ingredient capturing teleportation will take place the day after tomorrow.

(How would you see a rainbow without experiencing a thunderstorm? Young man, use your kitchen knife to subdue all ingredients.)

System reward: Ride Noodle Roll Cooking Technique

Chapter 85: The Emperor Past His Prime

"An abrupt mission?"

A surprised expression appeared on Bu Fang's face as the system's voice resounded within his mind. The abrupt mission this time came faster than he expected. He was already given one even though he recently levelled up.

"Proceed with the first ingredient capture... Only one day of preparation time is given." Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together. "Isn't one day a little too sudden?"

"System, if I am going to capture ingredients in the Wildlands, what's going to happen to my store? Are we closing down?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked.

"The time limit for the host to capture the ingredients is only two days. If a suitable ingredient is not captured within two days, the abrupt mission will be deemed a failure and ten percent of the crystal conversion ratio will be deducted as punishment. During the two days, the store will be temporarily closed for business," the system said in its usual aloof tone.

Bu Fang nodded. He was starting to understand this abrupt mission better. However he was also becoming more nervous since ten percent of the energy conversion ratio would be deducted if he failed... This was no different from gouging flesh from his heart.

The energy conversion ratio was extremely important toward Bu

Fang's levelling progress. It was not easy for him to increase the value to fifty percent. If he was deducted ten percent from failing the mission, he would have to cry himself to sleep.

After giving a big yawn, Bu Fang returned to his room and laid down on his bed. After a while, the rhythmic sound of breathing resounded within the room.

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The crown prince palace.

The crown prince's expression was gloomy as he tightly clenched his fists. His fingernails were digging into the flesh of his palms. It was clear how angry the crown prince must be feeling at the current moment.

"Ji Chengyu... You actually dare to collude with sects from outside the border! You're courting disaster!" Ji Chengan's face was ashen as he stared at Xushi's mummified corpse with eyes filled with unconcealable sorrow.

Xushi had been following him for many years and had always been his most capable subordinate. However, he was now dead from Ji Chengyu's evil scheme. Even though the crown prince had no proof that King Yu colluded with sects from outside the borders, anyone with a discerning eye would be able to guess that King Yu was the culprit.

"Ji Chengyu... Despite your claims of never making a mistake, you made such a big mistake this time. If even I could guess that you colluded with the sects, do you really think someone as wise as father wouldn't be able to tell? Do you really think father has gone senile?"

A trace of mockery suddenly appeared on the crown prince's gloomy face. The joy in his eyes was becoming more and more apparent.

"Like I've said... You're courting disaster!"

The crown prince's cold laughter, filled with repressed anger and killing intent, resounded within the palace.

King Yu's manor.

King Yu was leaning on the armrest of a sandalwood chair with one leg resting on the other, while lightly hitting his knee with his hand. His eyes were calm as water as he looked into the distance.

His expression was serene and his emotions were indiscernible. However, it was this composure that made him seem even more terrifying.

At the doorway, a stooping figure entered with tottering steps, as if a burst of wind was enough to knock him over.

Hun Qianyun's aura was extremely weakened and had almost

fallen to the level of a Battle-King. Evidently, the secret technique he used to escape caused great harm to his body.

"This useless old man... greets King Yu." Hun Qianyun seemed to have become even thinner. He was nothing but skin and bones. The two lumps of spirit within his eye sockets had also become very dim.

"Tsk, tsk tsk. Looks like our Soul Sect head elder's injury isn't light. It's almost as if I could crush you with a single finger." The corner of King Yu's mouth curled up as he mockingly looked down toward Hun Qianyun and lightly gestured with his finger.

The spirit fire within Hun Qianyun's eyes trembled for a moment and his body slightly tensed up. A faint trace of pitch-black energy began to encircle his body.

"King Yu, what's the meaning of this? Even though this useless old man is severely injured... The mission was successfully completed. Is there a need for King Yu to destroy the bridge after crossing the river?"

King Yu glanced at him and indifferently replied, "That's right, you completed the mission. However, you also created a huge problem for me. Do you really not know?"

"I only need you to ruin that Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup. After you kill my brother's men, you just need to destroy that corpses and avoid leaving any evidence. But... Why did you provoke that mysterious store?" King Yu's tone suddenly became

cold. As he stood up from his chair, his upright body was releasing an intimidating aura.

The aura of someone belonging to the upper class came crashing down on Hun Qianyun.

Hun Qianyun sighed within his mind. As expected of Emperor Changfeng's son, King Yu was impressive. Even though his strength fell short, his aura was not weaker than Hun Qianyun's in the slightest...

However, Hun Qianyun was actually not too worried. At the current moment, King Yu would not dare to have a falling out with the Soul Sect, so the probability of King Yu planning to kill him was low.

Sure enough, King Yu's aura soon dissipated as he indifferently swept his gaze over Hun Qianyun.

"I'll let you off this time. However, you should know that there's a limit to my patience. If you screw up the next mission, then it won't end with just taking a hike," King Yu indifferently said as he held his hands behind his back, while true energy which nearly tore the air apart encircled his body.

Hun Qianyun took a deep breath. King Yu was already a peak-level fifth grade Battle-King. He was only one step away from becoming a sixth grade Battle-Emperor.

After Hun Qianyun withdrew, King Yu was the only person left within the palace.

He raised his hand and a lump of true energy gathered on his palm. Then, he suddenly crushed it...

"My dear brother, you're probably celebrating right now from discovering my weak point. But... so what? If father really wants to execute me, then this son will just have to... revolt."

.....

Xiao Meng passed through the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. When he turned around and looked at the towering Main Hall, he helplessly sighed.

Even someone as willful and bold as Emperor Changfeng lost to time in the end. After campaigning against the sects for over a hundred years, his own son actually colluded with the sects to destroy his final hope of prolonging his life... It was really ironic.

"As long as you don't become a supreme being, you're still a mortal in the end..." With a solemn expression on his face and his eyebrows knitted together, Xiao Meng lightly sighed as he left.

Within the Main Hall, the elderly emperor was sitting on his throne. As he continued coughing, his aura became even more weaker. A trace of lethargy seemed to have appeared on his face.

Lian Fu's face was filled with worry and sorrow as he watched the emperor.

"Your Majesty... Should I get the imperial physician to have another look?" Lian Fu asked.

The emperor waved him away. His eyes were somewhat cloudy, but the air of superiority around him had not diminished in the slightest.

"My lifelong wish has always been to wipe out the sects and bringing peace to the empire. The existence of the sects will always be a latent danger," the emperor said in a hoarse voice with an indifferent tone. "Now, my wonderful son actually colluded with the sects for the sake of obtaining the throne. Don't you think this is rather ironic?"

"This old face of mine is feeling hot from embarrassment."

Lian Fu did not say anything as he respectfully stood on one side with a solemn expression.

The emperor was trembling as he stood up. As he started chuckling, his harsh laughter resounded within the Main Hall.

"I am Emperor Changfeng, the great emperor who wiped out hundreds of sects. Even though I am past my prime, I still can't let my own son embarrass me like this. Sons should give their fathers the fear and respect they deserve... He'll understand this soon

enough."

The faint voice, filled with mad arrogance and confidence, resounded within the Main Hall and then gradually dissipated.

Lian Fu's expression became even more respectful as he bowed and watched as the emperor's disappearing figure.

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The next day, early morning.

Bu Fang opened up the store as usual. However, he had to tell Xiaoyi that the store will be temporarily closed for two days. Otherwise, she would come to the store as always and find the entrance closed.

Fatty Jin and his buddies arrived and the empty store became a little livelier. With his sharp eyes, Fatty Jin discovered the new dish, Red Braised Meat, and his eyes immediately lit up.

"Owner Bu, this new dish is a bit expensive... It actually costs a hundred crystals. That's not cheap at all." The price of the Red Braised Meat slightly extinguished Fatty Jin's excitement. After all, even a nouveau riche would still feel the pain of spending a few hundred crystals per day.

"The new dish won't disappoint you. Trust me," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

Fatty Jin narrowed his eyes and stared at Bu Fang for a long while, before he made a decision and ordered the Red Braised Meat. The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up as he turned around and entered the kitchen.

When he walked out of the kitchen with the plate of overwhelmingly fragrant Red Braised Meat, Xiaoyi had already arrived at the store.

At the entrance, an elderly and familiar figure was slowly stepping into the store.

"Owner Bu, the characters on your signboard are not as good as my penmanship," the elderly man said with a chuckle.

Chapter 86: My Objective For Opening The Store Is.... Very Simple

The elderly person who stepped into the store was none other than the current emperor, Ji Changfeng.

Ji Changfeng's complexion was somewhat pallid. He looked like extremely delicate, just like an elderly person with one foot in the grave. The air of superiority that belonged to an emperor was missing.

"I saw the signboard hanging above the entrance. The characters look like they were engraved using a template. The lack of energy makes it extremely awkward to read. Even though it looks good on the surface, it won't be able to withstand a thorough assessment. It's inferior to my penmanship," the emperor said with a chuckle as he held his hands behind his back.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows. He was not surprised that the emperor came to his store, but he did not expect for him to arrive at such an early hour.

The signboard at the entrance was provided by the system. At that time, Bu Fang rejected the emperor's offer for a signboard only because the system was going to provide one. Now it seemed... the signboard provided by the system was not that impressive.

"System, the emperor said the characters on the signboard you provided are poorly written," Bu Fang said to the system.

The response was a short moment of silence before the system's solemn voice rang out, "The characters on the signboard are replicates of the handwriting of the Light Wind Empire's number one calligraphist. There is no problem. As for the lack of energy mentioned by the emperor, the system is unable to answer."

Bu Fang nodded. The signboard provided by the system's ability was definitely not ordinary. However, the characters might have been lacking in energy since they were replicates.

No longer interested in this topic, Bu Fang expressionlessly asked, "Your Majesty, are you here today to eat?"

The emperor sat down at a table, waved him away and said, "There's no need to hurry. I have some questions that I need you to answer."

"Hmm? What sort of questions?" Bu Fang asked.

"I am afraid there won't be any more chances if I don't ask them right now." The emperor's body slightly trembled as he coughed. Then he raised his head and seriously looked at Bu Fang with murky eyes. "Not only are you the master of a supreme spirit beast as well as a puppet equivalent to a seventh grade Battle-Saint, you're also capable of cooking dishes filled with spirit energy... Owner Bu, who exactly are you?"

"What's your objective of staying within the imperial city of the Light Wind Empire?"

Bu Fang slightly raised his eyebrows as he stared at the emperor. Both of their gazes silently collided in mid-air.

After a long while, Bu Fang expressionlessly replied, "I don't have any objectives. I simply want to run a small restaurant."

The emperor's expression froze and he shook his head while giving a wry smile. "Impossible. The strength of your store is comparable to the entire Light Wind Empire. There's no way you would open a restaurant just to run it. If you don't want to say it, then I won't force you. However, I hope you would give a proper answer for my last question."

"Speak," Bu Fang replied.

The emperor lightly coughed while holding his chest, then raised his head and asked, "You're not someone from the sects, right? You won't do anything that would threaten the empire, right?"

This question was his true purpose for the visit. As an emperor—even an emperor that was about to pass away—he could not tolerate an unknown factor that he could not control to exist within his empire.

However, with the existence of the supreme spirit beast, the emperor did not even have the slightest confidence in destroying the store. He could only settle for the next best thing. He wanted to be at ease by finding out the true purpose of the store.

However, the truth was Bu Fang opened a restaurant within the Light Wind Empire's imperial city to earn crystals in a low-key manner and raise his cultivation level. It was all in order to become the God of Cooking who stands at the pinnacle of the fantasy world's food chain. His objective... was really that simple.

"Don't worry, that won't happen." The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into an awkward smile as he solemnly replied the emperor.

The emperor was surprised for a moment. Then smile appeared on his wrinkled face and later turned into a big laughter.

"Owner Bu, I feel much more relaxed after hearing your words. I am feeling happy, so I'll have all of the dishes today. This might be the last time I'll be able to enjoy a meal here."

After the emperor finished laughing, he took a deep breath and clapped his hands as he said.

Lian Fu, who was waiting outside, walked into the store while pinching his thumb and middle finger together. He respectfully stood behind the emperor with eyes filled with worry.

Bu Fang nodded, then went into the kitchen.

After a while, a rich fragrance wafted out from the kitchen. The emperor narrowed his eyes and became somewhat captivated from

smelling the aroma.

"After living for so many years and eating so much delicious food, Owner Bu's dishes are still the most captivating. Unfortunately... I only met Owner Bu at my final moments. I wonder if this is a reward from the heavens or a punishment," the emperor softly muttered to himself.

Xiaoyi obediently carried out the dishes and placed them in front of the emperor. The emperor chuckled as he stroked her head with an expression filled with tenderness.

After eating and drinking to his fill, the emperor left the store with Lian Fu following behind him. While standing at the entrance, Bu Fang lightly sighed as he watched the emperor's elderly back figure.

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"Xiaoyi, you don't have to come for the next two days. I'll be going out to do something, so the store will be temporarily closed for two days." Once the business hours had ended for that day, Bu Fang expressionlessly said while patting Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

"Ah? Smelly boss, are you going to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant to cause trouble again?" Ouyang Xiaoyi excitedly raised her head and looked at Bu Fang. Her lively eyes were filled with excitement.

Bu Fang's complexion slightly darkened. "Who told you I'll be causing trouble just because the store is taking a break... I have something important to do for the next two days."

"Sigh... Alright, if smelly boss still wants to go to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, you must definitely invite me as well! You were really handsome when you slapped their owner in his face!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes narrowed into slits as she waved around her tiny fists and said with a grin.

"I was only speaking the truth. I did no such thing like slapping his face. Also, you should make use of these two days to properly cultivate. I hope that your cultivation will improve when I return. In the future, the requirement for eating my dishes will be even higher," Bu Fang said.

The moment cultivation level was mentioned, Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up. She held out her hand like she was showing off and said, "Smelly boss, take a look! My cultivation has already reached the intermediate level of third grade Battle-Maniac!"

Bu Fang glanced at Ouyang Xiaoyi's smug expression and expressionlessly said, "Is that fast? Even though you've been eating so many of the store's dishes that are filled with spirit energy, your cultivation progress is still so slow. This proves that you've been slacking off. Look at me, I am already a fourth grade Battle-Spirit."

"Smelly boss, you're really annoying... Forget it, this young lady is going back! Hmph!" Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted in exasperation as she turned around and left the store while puffing out her cheeks.

After Ouyang Xiaoyi left, Bu Fang squatted in front of Blacky. He was stroking Blacky's soft and immaculate fur as he said, "Lazy dog, I won't be around for the next two days. You'll have to look for food on your own."

Blacky lazily opened its eyes. When it heard Bu Fang's words, it immediately snorted and rolled its eyes.

Bu Fang went back into the store and he took out a piece of wooden board with the words: Business is temporarily suspended. After hanging up the wooden board, he closed up the store and went back into the kitchen.

"System, since I'll need to find the ingredients by myself in the Wildlands, will you be providing condiments?" Bu Fang asked.

"They're not provided," the system coldly replied.

Bu Fang seemed to have already predicted the system's response. He softly replied, "Oh." Then he took out a large piece of cloth and placed salt, soy sauce, pepper and other condiments onto the cloth. Along the way, he grabbed a large wok, that was filled with kitchen knives, spatula and other kitchen tools. He was going to pack them as well...

"...The purpose of heading to the Wildlands is to capture ingredients and not to go for a picnic. Would the host please understand the main content of the mission. Condiments can be brought along but cooking tools, except for equipment from the

God of Cooking set, are not allowed," the system solemnly said.

Bu Fang's body suddenly froze while in the middle of packing, then he expressionlessly let out a sigh. "Wouldn't I need to cook the ingredients after capturing them? How would I bring out the delicious flavor of the ingredients to the maximum without cooking tools?"

This time, the system could not even be bothered to reply Bu Fang...

In the end, Bu Fang only wrapped a few condiments within the cloth bundle and went back to his room to replenish his sleep.

The next day, as the first ray of light brightened the horizon, Bu Fang was woken up by the system's beeping.

"Would the host please pay attention. The teleportation array will be activated in five minutes. Please prepare for the teleportation."

Bu Fang was surprised for a moment. As he raised his head, he realized a speck of light had appeared above his head and was rapidly drawing a mysterious magic array.

Chapter 87: Killing A Pig With A Single Blow

The Hidden Dragon Continent was vast and abundant with resources. There were many lofty mountains, unending mountain rivers, boundless seas, and even lakes shrouded in miasma.

The Wildlands was a vast plain that was situated outside of the Light Wind Empire's border. There was a large forest as well as a large lake within the plain. However, these were not the main point. The reason for the Wildlands' naming was that innumerable spirit beasts were living within the boundless plain. These spirit beasts were unevenly matched with variation in their strength.

Like a nested circle, the Wildlands was divided into three layers: outskirts, inner, and center. The strength of the spirit beasts scattered within each layer was different. The closer toward the center, the stronger the spirit beasts were... There were even rumors that ninth grade spirit beasts dwell in the center of the Wildlands.

Therefore, the center area of the Wildlands was also known as the forbidden region for humans. Even a seventh grade Battle-Saint would not dare to step into the area. In front of a ninth grade supreme beast, a human Battle-Saint was not any different from an ant.

The outskirts of the Wildlands.

With a series of explosions, hurricanes suddenly emerged and demolished the trees in the surrounding area. Three figures were

rapidly moving between the trees while constantly releasing violent energies.

Amidst the hurricanes, two figures charged toward the spirit beast in front of them in an attempt to surround it. Their target was the spirit beast that was trying to escape.

The spirit beast's running speed was extremely fast and the aura exuding from it was very powerful as well. It was actually a sixth grade spirit beast. Electricity was constantly flickering over its body while producing hissing sounds. As it dashed through the area, a burning smell lingered in the air.

"Second brother! The Thunderfire Spirit Pig has slowed down! We must not let it escape!" A clear, tender voice rang out as a stream of true energy burst forth and struck the Thunderfire Spirit Pig running ahead of them.

With a roar, the Thunderfire Spirit Pig became even faster and directly knocked down a large tree. An electric arc jumped from its body and immediately set the broken tree on fire.

A man in green garments with fluttering long hair was chasing after the spirit beast while standing on a flying sword. While faintly smiling, he looked toward the Thunderfire Spirit Pig fleeing in a distance and said, "Junior sister, there's no need to hurry. Even though the Thunderfire Spirit Pig is a sixth grade spirit beast, it only has a strong defense. Its combat ability, speed, and stamina are weak. Soon, it'll obediently stop."

Next to the handsome man, an adorable young girl with large eyes was excitedly staring at the Thunderfire Spirit Pig. She had a smile on her face with two lovely dimples in her cheeks.

Suddenly, the man was slightly surprised for a moment as he puzzledly looked toward the distance.

The fleeing figure of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig suddenly stopped. In front of the spirit pig, the empty space had suddenly become distorted. Thereafter, a hurricane burst forth from the distortion. Bright specks of light were flashing within the hurricane.

Boom!

With a loud explosion, the hurricane fell apart and a slender figure appeared within the magic array constructed with light.

With an angry roar, the Thunderfire Spirit Pig's speed was not inferior from before as it charged toward the slender figure that suddenly appeared. It was still a sixth grade spirit beast after all. Even if its combat abilities are weak, the impact caused by such a charge would still be devastating.

"Hmm? What the hell is this?" That slender figure seemed to still be in a daze. When he raised his head and noticed a pig fiercely charging toward him, he immediately raised his eyebrows and indifferently spat out the sentence.

"Be careful!" Even though the man in green garments did not

understand how the slender young man suddenly appeared, he still threw out a warning out of goodwill.

The young girl with dimples following behind him had also turned pale from fright. She covered her eyes with hands as she did not dare to watch the tragic scene that was about to occur...

The man in green garments did not expect someone to suddenly appear in front of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig. Even though the combat power of the spirit beast was not strong, its defensive power was terrifying. With its tough skin and dense muscles, even a sixth grade Battle-Emperor would be seriously injured by its fierce charge. An ordinary person would most likely be immediately squashed into mincemeat.

However, the scene that occurred in the next moment caused the expression of the man to suddenly freeze and his eyes to be filled with incredulity.

Despite facing the charge of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig, that young man seemed to be completely unfazed. There was no change in his expression and his eyes were as calm as water. He only saw an unassuming kitchen knife appear within the young man's hand.

"Are you serious... What's the point of taking out a kitchen knife when you're facing the charge of a Thunderfire Spirit Pig?" This was the first thought that the man in green garments had when he saw the kitchen knife.

However, the result was completely outside of his expectations.

The speed of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig did not decrease at all, while the unassuming kitchen knife held by the young man actually started radiating a brilliant golden light. The man in green garments was unable to open his eyes due to the dazzling golden light.

After the light subsided, everything became quiet once more.

When the man in green garments saw the scene before him, his mouth slightly opened and his face was filled with horror and solemnity. The young girl next to him exclaimed in surprise as well and her large eyes opened even wider.

The Thunderfire Spirit Pig was actually split into two halves while it was still alive. Its gigantic body had fallen to the ground and blood was spilled everywhere. There was still some electricity jumping about within the pool of blood.

That young man put away his unassuming kitchen knife and walked toward the Thunderfire Spirit Pig while carrying a bundle. He squatted down next to the Thunderfire Spirit Pig and seemed to be observing its corpse.

The man in green garments and the young girl hurriedly descended and did not dare to make the slightest noise. By the fact that the person in front of them could kill the Thunderfire Spirit Pig which was known for its defensive power with a single blow, there was no doubt that he was definitely a powerful expert.

He might even be a seventh grade Battle-Saint!

"Your exce... Senior, what an amazing move! Killing the Thunderfire Spirit Pig with a single blow, you were truly awe-inspiring." The man in green garments had a smile on his face as he spoke to the young man who was observing the corpse of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig.

The young man expressionlessly lifted his head and glanced at the man in green garments and the girl with dimples standing behind him. He indifferently nodded and stood up.

"The meat of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig contains thunder and fire elements. It's a pretty good ingredient. Sadly, it's still quite lacking compared to the ingredient that I'm hoping to capture," the young man muttered to himself. However, these words sounded like thunder in the ears of the man in green garments.

"Gosh... He's definitely an exponent! Even the sixth grade Thunderfire Spirit Pig is not good enough for him, is he here to look for a seventh grade spirit beast?" the man in green garments thought.

"Hmm... What are your names? What are you doing here?" The young man asked the man in green garments while having an unchanging expression.

"Senior, I am Tang Yin, a disciple of the Celestial Arcanum Sect. This is my junior sister, Lu Xiaoxiao. Dare I ask your distinguished name?" Tang Yin respectfully said. After a closer observation, he realized the true energy fluctuation coming from the young man's

body was actually not that strong. It was approximately around the level of a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. Even so, he still spoke in a respectful manner.

Fourth grade Battle-Spirit... How could someone with such a cultivation level dare to enter the Wildlands? Obviously... There was no way a person who could kill a sixth grade spirit beast with a single blow with a kitchen knife could be a fourth grade Battle-Spirit!

"Oh, my name is Bu Fang. I am a chef. I am from... err, the Light Wind Empire." Bu Fang earnestly introduced himself as well.

"Eh... Ah? A chef? Did you really just introduce yourself as a chef?" Tang Yin thought.

Both Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao had weird expressions on their faces. They had to admit that the hobbies of the powerful were indeed difficult to fathom. Their own master, the third elder of the Celestial Arcanum Sect, spent a lot of time researching culinary in the kitchen as well.

"Senior, could you sell this Thunderfire Spirit Pig to us? My junior sister and I came all the way to the Wildlands for the sake of this Thunderfire Spirit Pig..." Tang Yin said while performing a fist and palm salute.

Bu Fang thought for a moment as he glanced at the corpse of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig. The corners of his mouth widened into a smile as he said, "You can have it, since I don't need this ingredient

anyway. Other than cooking, there should be no other uses for the meat of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig. Are the two of you chefs as well?"

Tang Yin's pupils slightly constricted as the admiration in his heart toward Bu Fang suddenly blossomed. As expected of a senior! He actually figured out their intentions for collecting the Thunderfire Spirit Pig with a single glance! He was right! They were there in order to collect ingredients for their master!

"It doesn't matter whether you're a chef or not. I have a question to ask the two of you." Bu Fang interrupted Tang Yin who was about to reply and said, "Do you know whether there's an ingredient far superior than this Thunderfire Spirit Pig in the surrounding area?"

Chapter 88: I Am A Chef

Bu Fang's question was rather outside of Tang Yin's expectations because it lacked common sense.

The Thunderfire Spirit Pig was a sixth grade spirit beast and was already considered the strongest within the outskirts of the Wildlands. Relatively speaking, it was also an ingredient with the highest grade. If they wanted to find an ingredient of a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig, they would need to enter the inner layer of the Wildlands.

The inner layer of the Wildlands was an extremely dangerous place to them. Tang Yin was a sixth grade Battle-Emperor while Lu Xiaoxiao was only a fifth grade Battle-King. If they entered the inner layer at their level, there was very little chance for them to survive if they encountered any spirit beast.

The reason was the weakest of the spirit beasts within the inner layer was already sixth grade, while seventh and even eighth grade spirit beasts could be occasionally encountered.

When Bu Fang noticed something was strange about Tang Yin's expression, he realized Tang Yin knew where to find ingredients with higher quality.

"If you tell me the information about the ingredients or guide me there, I'll cook for you free of charge," Bu Fang earnestly said.

Tang Yin scoffed at Bu Fang's words and did not take him

seriously. If Tang Yin was not awed by Bu Fang when the latter killed the Thunderfire Spirit Pig with a single blow, he would have already left with Lu Xiaoxiao. Guiding Bu Fang to the inner layer was a perilous task. He did not believe Bu Fang's dishes would be more precious than his life.

Just when Tang Yin was somewhat hesitant, Lu Xiaoxiao glanced at her senior brother and suddenly said, "Second brother, isn't there a spirit beast within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix? Master told us to give it a try if we have the capability or choose the Thunderfire Spirit Pig if we don't. That spirit beast should be an ingredient of a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig, right?"

Lu Xiaoxiao's eyes were curved like crescent moons, while her adorable smile was accompanied by charming dimples in her cheeks.

Tang Yin knitted his eyebrows together as his gaze fell on his junior sister. He did not expect Lu Xiaoxiao to mention the spirit beast within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix at this time.

"Hmm? A spirit beast of a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig? Alright, bring me there to have a look," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Tang Yin wanted to explain something, but the moment the words reached his mouth, Lu Xiaoxiao clinged onto his arm and pulled him away while walking forward.

"Second brother, with our senior's ability, he can help us get rid of that spirit beast! Without that spirit beast, we'll be able to harvest the Phoenix Blood Herb inside of the valley! Then, we'll be able to complete master's mission!" Lu Xiaoxiao whispered to Tang Yin.

"Wouldn't we be taking advantage of our senior? We can't do this... We need to explain things to him properly," Tang Yin said with a frown as he gave his impish junior sister a dissatisfied look.

"Second brother, what if our senior refused to go if we told him the truth? He's looking for a high grade ingredient anyway, and that spirit beast is certainly of a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit beast!" Lu Xiaoxiao said as she anxiously pulled Tang Yin's arm while walking forward.

Tang Yin faltered for a moment and was struggling internally. Finally, he sighed and said, "When the time comes, we'll have to work hard and help our senior to get rid of that spirit beast."

"Of course! That's a given!" When Tang Yin finally agreed, Lu Xiaoxiao delightedly smiled and her charming dimples appeared once more.

As Bu Fang was following behind them while carrying his bundle, he was naturally unaware of their conversation.

The corpse of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig was already kept by Tang Yin. He must have been carrying a Spatial Spirit Tool as he managed to put away the corpse just by waving his arm.

"Senior, that spirit beast is located at the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix. There's quite a distance between this place and the valley, so we'll have to travel throughout the night to get there earlier," Tang Yin said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded. "It's alright, we just need to reach there by tomorrow afternoon."

The system gave Bu Fang two days to capture the ingredient. According to Tang Yin's words, Bu Fang was not anxious.

The three of them traveled within the dense forest. This forest was an extremely vast region within the Wildlands. Once in a while, they would encounter third and fourth grade spirit beasts and Tang Yin would immediately slaughter them. There was no need for Bu Fang to help out.

After the three of them traveled for a while, they finally walked out of the dense forest and entered a stone forest. Countless amount of gravel littered the floor of this wasteland.

"Once we've crossed this stone forest, we'll reach the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix... Senior, why don't we rest here for the night?" Tang Yin said to Bu Fang with a smile.

Lu Xiaoxiao also hurriedly said, "That's right, senior! Let's have a rest! I am so tired!"

"The Wildlands is very dangerous at night. Even though senior is very powerful, we should still rest for the night for the sake of safety. Why don't we continue tomorrow?"

Bu Fang looked up and saw that the sky had already gone dark. He nodded and said, "Let's rest for the night. I promised that I would cook for you if you're willing to guide me. I need you to give me a piece of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig's spinal meat."

The three of them found a tranquil spot hidden behind a large boulder.

Bu Fang went into the forest and returned with some dry wood. He turned to Tang Yin and asked, "Do you know how to build a fire?"

Tang Yin was stunned for a moment. He thought, "This... Is senior really planning to cook for us?" He kept thinking Bu Fang was just joking around with them. He did not think that Bu Fang was actually going to cook for them.

Lu Xiaoxiao was slightly surprised as well, then she became somewhat suspicious. "This senior... Is he really a chef? He's not the kind of unreliable chef like our master, right?"

"You, build a fire and give me a piece of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig's spinal meat. I have to process it," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Tang Yin hurriedly took out a piece of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig's spinal meat from his Spatial Spirit Tool and handed it over to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang took the spinal meat. He found a piece of rock and used true energy to clean its surface. Once the rock was properly cleaned, he took out a gourd filled with spring water and washed the Thunderfire Spirit Pig's spinal meat. He rinsed the meat to remove the excess blood and allow the spirit energy within the spring water to permeate the surface of the meat.

After Bu Fang evaporated the water on the meat's surface with true energy, he conjured the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife with a wave of his hand. The pitch-black kitchen knife whirled around a few times on his palm. Then Bu Fang used the knife to slice the meat into three large pieces.

Lu Xiaoxiao was speechlessly staring at Bu Fang. Bu Fang's gorgeous and dazzling knife work was still replaying in her mind. She was somewhat confused by the situation. Was this senior really a professional chef?

Nearby, Tang Yin had already built a fire. Having a sixth grade Battle-Emperor to build a fire was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Bu Fang picked up some tree branches and sharpened the ends. A strange fragrance was emanating from the twig.

After skewering the pieces of meat with the tree branches, Bu

Fang built a stand over the fire that Tang Yin made. He placed the skewered meat onto the stand to be slowly roasted.

Three pieces of meat skewered by tree branches were neatly placed onto the grill and roasted by the fire.

"Senior... Your actions looked really skillful. You looked just like a chef," Tang Yin said, not knowing how to react. So, Bu Fang was really planning to cook for them.

Bu Fang glanced at him and said, "I am a chef."

After Bu Fang finished speaking, he took out various bottles filled with seasonings like salt, pepper, cumin powder, etc.

Looking at the bottles, Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were completely speechless. They thought, "So, you really were a chef?"

"As expected of our senior... Coming to the Wildlands is like having a picnic for you. You even prepared seasoning," Lu Xiaoxiao said with a dry chuckle.

Bu Fang said, "If it isn't for the fact that it wasn't allowed, I would've brought the other kitchen tools as well. Then, I would've been able to cook even more delicious dishes. You guys are unlucky."

Lu Xiaoxiao and Tang Yin could only speechlessly stare at Bu Fang.

For a while, no one said anything and the surrounding became quiet. They could only hear the sound of the firewood burning.

Within the terrifying silence, the rich fragrance of meat soon began to waft through the air.

Chapter 89: Bu Clan's Secret Recipe Roast Meat

The spinal meat of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig was skewered by the tree branches of an unknown genus and roasted above the fire. As the temperature rose, the tree branches would release an enticing aroma. The aroma was unlike the smell of meat. It was similar to the captivating fragrance of fresh fruit.

An alluring rosiness gradually appeared on the meat as it was being roasted by the flames. Oil soon permeated from the meat, while a faint amount of electricity continuously jumped about on the surface.

Bu Fang skillfully rotated the meat to ensure that every spot was evenly heated. This was a test of the chef's control over the heat. Rotisserie looked simple at a glance but there were many small techniques involved in the process.

As the meat belonged to the sixth grade Thunderfire Spirit Pig, ordinary flames naturally had no effect on it. Therefore, Bu Fang had to inject his true energy into the fire all the time. This was actually considered a style of true energy culinary.

As the roasting time increased, the rich fragrance of meat was wafting out from the grill and drifting within the stone forest.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao swallowed their salivas at the same time without prior agreement, and their eyes involuntarily drifted toward the meat. That extremely rosy meat roasted by Bu Fang

was glittering with oil and exuding tremendous charm.

"It smells really aromatic!" Tang Yin could not restrain himself as he exclaimed. The smell of the meat was mellow but not greasy and was even mixed with a faint fruity fragrance. It gave him an inescapable feeling of euphoria.

Lu Xiaoxiao was already staring at the roast meat, and her eyes were unable to move away. Having spent their lives cultivating within the Celestial Arcanum Sect, how could they resist such a rich fragrance?

Within the sect, those who became fifth grade Battle-Kings would usually choose to fast. Their need for eating food was extremely small.

Bu Fang expressionlessly rotated the meat. As the oil started to drip from the roast meat, he would sprinkle some seasonings on it and the aroma of the meat would immediately become even more rich and diverse.

Taking down two of the skewers, Bu Fang gave them to Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao and beckoned them to start tasting.

"Bu Clan's Secret Recipe Roast Meat, please enjoy," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were almost drooling. As they were smelling the aroma of the roast meat from a close distance, their

appetites were whetted and they were eager to have a taste.

"Thank you very much, senior." Tang Yin was still quite self-disciplined. He thanked Bu Fang before he took a bite out of the roast meat.

Even though Lu Xiaoxiao was a woman, her table manners were not as refined as Tang Yin's. When Tang Yin was having his first bite, her mouth was already stuffed with roast meat.

"Oh, oh... Hot! Hot!" Lu Xiaoxiao's cheeks were stuffed with food and her eyes were opened wide. She tightly held onto the roast meat with one hand while continuously fanning her cheeks with the other hand.

Tang Yin took his first bite of the roast meat. During the instant his teeth made contact with the meat, a rich flavor burrowed into his mouth. The meat was surprisingly tender and was missing the dryness and hardness that roast meat should possess. As he bit down, the oil seeped out and smeared his lips. When seen from afar, it was like a layer of lipstick was applied.

As Tang Yin chewed the roast meat within his mouth, the succulent meat was covering his tongue and a numbing sensation was secreting from the meat. It was stimulating his mouth and causing goosebumps to appear all over his body.

After swallowing the roast meat, the numbing sensation traveled down his esophagus and into his stomach. It felt as if his entire body was being cleaned and it was so comfortable that he wanted

to moan out loud.

"How could such a delicious taste exist in this world! I didn't know that the meat of the Thunderfire Spirit Pig could be this delicious!" Tang Yin suddenly felt an impulse to shed tears. After living for so long, it was the first time he had eaten food that emotionally moved him.

Lu Xiaoxiao had already stopped eating. Her eyes were red. She was evidently emotionally moved by the delicious taste as well.

As a disciple belonging to one of the top ten sects outside of the border, the Celestial Arcanum Sect, they had to undergo arduous training since they were young. They ate plain congee and steamed buns for three meals a day over a dozen years. Once their cultivation level reached fifth grade, most of them would choose to fast. Therefore, they had no concept of taste.

Eating the roast meat made by Bu Fang for the first time was simply an indescribable shock to them. It was the kind of taste that could enter the depths of their hearts.

Bu Fang expressionlessly watched as the two of them continued to eat with no signs of stopping and the corners of his mouth widened into a smile. Then he took the last skewer as well and leisurely began tasting.

As he ate, he was also attempting to look for flaws existing within the roast meat.

Swoosh!

As the wind blew, the aroma of the roast meat gradually spread into the surroundings. The smell of the roast meat was especially conspicuous within the Wildlands. Many spirit beasts were subconsciously attracted toward their location by the fragrance.

Above a craggy boulder, a cheetah-like demonic beast with dark green eyes glowing in the dark was baring its teeth and drooling from its mouth, while staring in the direction of Bu Fang's camp.

Meanwhile, there were also a few other powerful auras belonging to spirit beasts swiftly approaching them.

The smell of the roast meat was not only a temptation toward humans, it was clearly an aroma that was hard to resist for spirit beasts as well.

Tang Yin took a bite of the roast meat and swallowed it into his stomach with a gulp. He had a satisfied expression as he stood up.

"Senior's culinary skill has really astounded me. Let me take care of the little things in the surroundings, so as not to affect your mood." Tang Yin pulled out his longsword with one hand while holding the roast meat with the other. The sharpness of the longsword exuded a numbing coldness.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly eating his roast meat while pondering the flaws within it.

Lu Xiaoxiao was also fully concentrated on dealing with the roast meat.

When Tang Yin realized that no one was paying attention to him, he suddenly felt really embarrassed. He grinned and take another bite of roast meat. With a chuckle, the true energy within his body suddenly burst out and wrapped around his body like a dragon.

"Hahahaha! In the past, there were heroes who drank wine while slaying demons! Now, there's I, Tang Yin, who ate meat while butchering beasts!"

Tang Yin's figure instantly charged into the midst of the approaching spirit beasts. The strength of these spirit beasts, who were attracted by the smell of the roast meat, were all approximately fifth grade. They were all rulers of their own regions. If it was not for the overwhelming temptation of the roast meat, they would never leave their own territory.

As his sword flashed in the darkness, Tang Yin effortlessly moved about in the midst of the numerous spirit beasts in a relaxed manner with his clothes fluttering about. He would occasionally take a bite of the roast meat as he fought to his heart's content while maintaining his composure.

Naturally, there was something strange with the spectacle of someone eating roast meat while battling spirit beasts...

After the battle was over, Tang Yin returned with one hand

holding his sword and the other holding the roast meat.

There was still blood dripping from his ice-cold longsword, but Tang Yin was eating the roast meat with indifference. There was an indescribable look of satisfaction on his face, mixed with a trace of astonishment.

"Senior, the spirit beasts have all been dealt with," Tang Yin said with a chuckle.

Bu Fang nodded as he placed the last piece of roast meat in his mouth and slowly chewed it.

"Senior, is your roast meat... capable of replenishing true energy? Even though I was fighting against four fifth grade spirit beasts on my own, not only did I feel my true energy was not depleting, I was getting stronger as the fight progressed. My true energy was nearly overflowing from my body..." Tang Yin took a deep breath and solemnly asked.

Nearby, Lu Xiaoxiao had a satisfied expression after eating her fill and was rubbing her bloated belly. She exhaled a breath of hot air and was planning to rest for a while.

However, her eyes widened in surprise in the next moment. She glanced at Tang Yin, then sat down with her legs crossed. A dense amount of true energy was surging within her body. She actually entered a cultivating state.

"As you can see, this roast meat can provide enough true energy to you. Don't make such a big fuss, this is just an ordinary true energy cuisine. If you still wish to taste food like this, you can come to the imperial city of the Light Wind Empire and look for Fang Fang's Little Store," Bu Fang simply said. At the same time, he advertised for his store.

Light Wind Empire, Fang Fang's Little Store... Tang Yin narrowed his eyes and solemnly nodded. He thought, "A serving of delicious food that is comparable to a single fifth grade elixir, our senior is indeed enigmatic!"

Then, after eating finished the roast meat, Tang Yin sat down with his legs crossed and began cultivating as well. Since the system had already extracted the true energy within his food, Bu Fang found a spot and went to sleep.

The night passed without incident. The next day, as the sun just rose above the horizon, the three of them set off toward the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix.

After passing through the stone forest, the scenery before their eyes changed.

In front of them was a trickling stream surrounded by a lush undergrowth. The sound of a cascading waterfall resounded in their ears. The Valley of the Fallen Phoenix was right before their eyes.

Chapter 90: Most Impressive, My Senior!

"Senior, this place is the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix," Tang Yin said as he pointed toward the paradise-like valley in the distance while standing above a large boulder.

The Valley of the Fallen Phoenix was located at the boundary between the outskirts and the inner layer. After passing through the stone forest, a single step was like stepping into paradise. There were many unusual treasures growing within the valley and precious medicinal ingredients could be found everywhere. The strong medicinal aroma emanating from within the valley was almost forming a multi-colored curtain as it hovered in the skies.

"This is truly a wondrous location," Bu Fang said. Only such a beautiful scenery could correspond with the fantasy world in Bu Fang's heart. After arriving at the Hidden Dragon Continent so long ago, this was the first time Bu Fang felt the marvel of the fantasy world.

"Didn't you guys say there's a spirit beast with a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig? Where is it?" Bu Fang asked. After he finished praising the scenery, his thoughts once again went back to the matter of the ingredient.

"Senior, that spirit beast is hiding inside the valley! We need to enter before we can meet it." Before Tang Yin could reply, Lu Xiaoxiao responded to Bu Fang's question first.

Tang Yin was frowning as he swept his gaze toward his junior

sister. He turned to Bu Fang and said, "Senior, the interior of the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix is not safe because of the uniqueness of its location... There might even be seventh grade spirit beasts in there."

Since the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix was located at the boundary between the outskirts and inner layer, there was a possibility of seventh grade spirit beasts appearing...

"Oh... Seventh grade spirit beasts? That should be considered as an ingredient of a higher grade than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig," Bu Fang indifferently said.

Tang Yin was dumbfounded.

As expected of his senior, even a seventh grade spirit beast was only an ingredient in his eyes... Tang Yin's admiration toward Bu Fang has simply reached the point of worship.

Even a human seventh grade Battle-Saint would find fighting against a seventh grade spirit to be an arduous task. However, in the mouth of his senior, the so-called seventh grade spirit beast was only food. How awe-inspiring!

Most impressive, my senior!

With Tang Yin leading the way, the three of them passed through the stone forest and stepped into the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix.

Within the serene valley, lush vegetation was growing everywhere. At a single glance, they could only see green. However, within this greenery, they could occasionally spot a few thickets of flowers beautifully blooming in this winter.

Even though it was winter, the Valley of the Phoenix seemed to be in a different world. There was no cold winter winds or falling snow. The inside of the verdant valley was exuding a warm wetness and was extremely comfortable.

This was also the first time Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao stepped into the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix. Their eyes were filled with curiosity as they looked around.

"Second brother! Look, it's a Butterfly Leaf Herb! A third grade spirit herb!" Lu Xiaoxiao suddenly exclaimed when she saw an herb that resembled the wings of a butterfly.

Furthermore, it was not just the Butterfly Leaf Herb. Within the valley, there were all sorts of precious herbs growing all over the place. At the very least, the herbs used in the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup could be seen everywhere.

As the thunderous sound of a waterfall resounded in their ears, the three of them picked the herbs while following a small path. They soon came before a waterfall.

As a strong wind mixed with water vapor blew past them, their sleeves and the edges of their clothes flapped violently. Their eyes were squinting as they looked forward.

"Hmm? Is that a Sage Herb?" Bu Fang raised his eyebrows as he looked toward a touch of purple foliage near the edge of the waterfall. The Sage Herb was beneath the foliage.

"Correct, that's the fifth grade spirit herb, Heavenly Sage Herb. I didn't think the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix would even have Sage Herb!" Tang Yin took a deep breath and was rather happy as he said.

Bu Fang nodded and started walking forward. He would naturally not miss such an opportunity to acquire the Sage Herb which he was very familiar with. Especially when the value of the herb was indisputable and it was a rare delicacy as well.

Just as Bu Fang was only a few meters away from the Heavenly Sage Herb, he knitted his eyebrows together as the sound of an object sailing through the air reached his ears.

Bu Fang's expression remained unchanged. As he waved his arm, the unassuming Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife immediately appeared in his hand and was swung toward the swiftly approaching figure.

During the instant the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife appeared, the body of the approaching figure suddenly stiffened and was immediately hewed into two halves by Bu Fang's kitchen knife.

Bright red blood spilled onto the floor, while the figure that was split in two was convulsing on the ground.

"Hiss..." When Tang Yin saw the scene, he sucked in a breath of cold air.

That was a fifth grade spirit beast, the Phantom Spearhead Viper! It was one of the most troublesome among the fifth grade spirit beasts!

After Bu Fang slayed the viper, he twirled the kitchen knife in his hand. There was neither dust nor blood on the blade. It turned into a wisp of green smoke and returned into the mark on Bu Fang's wrist once more.

He pulled out the Sage Herb. The plump herb was filled with a dense amount of spirit energy. Even though it was slightly inferior to the Sage Herb provided by the system, it was still much better than the one provided by the crown prince.

"System, can't you provide me with some kind of storage function? You can't be expecting me to carry the spirit herbs around with my bare hands, right? The ingredient I am going to capture might just be an enormous creature. Even if I manage to capture it, I won't be able to bring it back," Bu Fang said to the system.

The system did not immediately reply and was silent for a while.

"Dimensional bag function is being activated. Countdown until activation, 3, 2, 1... Activation completed. The host may now use the dimensional bag function." The system's solemn voice rang

out.

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile. As he exerted his will, the Sage Herb in his hand was stored into the dimensional bag. The capacity of the dimensional bag provided by the system was not small. The space inside was around the size of the store.

After storing the Sage Herb and a few other miscellaneous items into the dimensional bag, Bu Fang's eyebrows were knitted together as his gaze landed on Tang Yin once more.

"Where's the high quality ingredient you mentioned?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

"Senior, please wait... That spirit beast is right inside this valley!" Tang Yin hurriedly replied. He did not dare to irritate Bu Fang. Along the way, the unfathomable feeling coming from Bu Fang was terrifying him.

"Second brother! Look! That's... Phoenix Blood Herb?!"

Suddenly, Lu Xiaoxiao, who was standing next to Yang Yin, excitedly shouted while pointing toward a small hill next to the waterfall.

Phoenix Blood Herb? What was that? Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he looked toward the direction Lu Xiaoxiao was pointing. He saw a blood red herb that resembled the tail

feather of a phoenix atop a small hill swaying along with the wind. A dense amount of spirit energy was emanating from the herb.

"Phoenix Blood Herb is a seventh grade spirit herb. According to legends, it's a herb that mutated after coming in contact with the blood of the Ancient Phoenix. Those who consume the herb will gain the chance to rise from the ashes and succeed after failure. This is an excellent ingredient for the Elixir Cuisine. The system suggests acquiring this ingredient."

Bu Fang's eyes lit up. The Phoenix Blood Herb seemed pretty good from the looks of it.

"This Phoenix Blood Herb is just about to mature. When the time comes, the spirit beasts hiding within the valley would probably all appear... Senior, that spirit beast you're seeking will appear as well."

"The Phoenix Blood Herb is a good thing. I didn't think there would be an unexpected gift as well," Bu Fang said with a smile. The Phoenix Blood Herb swaying along with the wind was becoming more beautiful. The thick spirit energy was spreading to the surroundings and forming a cloud of white mist.

When Lu Xiaoxiao heard Bu Fang's words, her expression immediately changed. She asked, "Senior... Are you going to take the Phoenix Blood Herb as well?"

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together and puzzledly turned his head toward her. He looked at her and asked, "Is there anything

wrong with that?"

After hearing his reply, Lu Xiaoxiao's expression became unpleasant. At the same time, a series of powerful spirit energy fluctuations emanated from within the valley and terrifying auras were continuously leaking out.

Suddenly, Tang Yin's expression changed. As he looked around, he saw a horde of bestial figures had gathered in their surroundings without their realization...

Chapter 91: Once The Kitchen Knife Is Drawn, All Beasts Shall Submit

Within the valley shrouded with spirit energy, whitish waves of water produced thunderous noise as the water descended from above the cliff and resulted in water vapor scattering in all directions.

Not far from the waterfall, Bu Fang and the other two were alertly scanning their surroundings.

A series of soft bestial howls rang out as spirit beasts emerged from the area around the valley one after another while releasing a surge of spirit energy. A macabre atmosphere pervaded the entire valley. Within the herd of bestial figures, there was at least a few hundred spirit beasts.

Tang Yin's complexion had become extremely pale. As his gaze swept over the bestial figures, his eyes were filled with despair.

He did not think... He really did not think that the temptation of the Phoenix Blood Herb would be so great that the spirit energy released when it was about to mature would actually attract so many spirit beasts.

There was a disparity in the strength of the spirit beasts. They were mostly fifth grade spirit beasts, but there were over a dozen sixth grade spirit beasts among them as well. With this kind of line-up, Tang Yin would not be able to survive even if there were ten of him.

"Se... Second brother... Why is this happening? Why are there so many spirit beasts? I... I don't want to die here!" As Lu Xiaoxiao's large eyes swept across these spirit beasts, both of her legs suddenly started to tremble.

If she knew there were so many spirit beasts hiding within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix... She would never have come!

On the other hand, there was not much change in Bu Fang's expression. He only slightly frowned as he scanned the surrounding spirit beasts in astonishment.

"The Phoenix Blood Herb is filled with a dense amount of spirit energy and has a huge enhancement effect to the evolution of the spirit beasts. Therefore, its attractiveness to the spirit beasts is tremendous," Tang Yin solemnly said as his gaze landed on Bu Fang.

"Senior. If you manage to escape, I hope you would bring the news about our deaths back to our sect." Tang Yin had fallen into despair and his voice was filled with helplessness.

Lu Xiaoxiao was already lying limply on the ground while crying like a [pearblossom moistened by raindrops](#). She really regretted her reckless decision to enter the valley. Suddenly, Lu Xiaoxiao seemed to have recalled something. She looked toward Bu Fang with hope in her eyes while still sobbing.

Pearblossom moistened by raindrops (梨花帶雨) - Originated from The Song of Everlasting Regret by Bai Juyi, this was originally used

to describe Yang Guifei's beautiful appearance even while she was crying, but was later used to describe a woman's charm.

"Senior... With your capabilities, you must have a way of saving us, right?"

"Don't you guys want the Phoenix Blood Herb as well?" Bu Fang asked as he indifferently looked at Lu Xiaoxiao.

Lu Xiaoxiao's expression immediately stiffened as she blankly stared at Bu Fang. She watched as a wisp of green smoke emerged from Bu Fang's hand and that unassuming kitchen knife appeared in his hand.

"Don't take me for a fool. You were trying to use me from the beginning. It's true that there are spirit beasts here, but you only wanted to make use of me to get rid of them. Then, it would be easier for you to acquire that Phoenix Blood Herb, right?"

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened and revealed a mocking smile as he looked toward the bewildered Lu Xiaoxiao.

When Tang Yin heard Bu Fang's words, he suddenly sighed. He realized that Bu Fang had figured out their intent from the beginning. However, Bu Fang might not have minded earlier on since his objective was capturing the spirit beasts as ingredients. However, at the current moment, they had already fallen into a crisis. In this sort of situation, Bu Fang had no reason to be courteous any longer.

Tang Yin was feeling helpless as well. His junior sister, Lu Xiaoxiao, was actually not that bad of a person. The thing was she happened to be a crafty person. Normally, it was still fine since she was within the sect. However, once she was outside, it was easy to offend others with her ploys...

"Do you guys still want the Phoenix Blood Herb?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

At the moment, Lu Xiaoxiao's heart was already in her mouth. When she heard Bu Fang's question, she hurriedly replied while shaking her head, "I don't want it anymore! I don't want it anymore!"

Between her life and the Phoenix Blood Herb, Lu Xiaoxiao chose her own life without any hesitation.

Tang Yin was dazed for a moment, then suddenly became overjoyed as he excitedly asked, "Does senior have a method of resolving this perilous situation?"

As expected of his senior... This sort of situation might be a desperate situation for them. However, that was not the case for that unfathomable senior, Bu Fang.

Bu Fang glanced at him and was just about to nod his head, when he discovered the bestial horde in their surroundings were getting restless.

Rumble!

An intense tremor occurred in both the left and right directions, then the sound of trees breaking rang out. Two gigantic figures walked out and their terrifying aura pressed down on the entire valley.

Tang Yin's complexion suddenly became deathly pale... His eyes were fixated on the two figures that just appeared. The hope that had just arisen was destroyed once more.

"Two seventh grade spirit beasts... It's over, we're done for."

Lu Xiaoxiao broke out in tears once more. The hope that had just arisen was suddenly crushed. The difference between her expectation and the result had caused her mental breakdown.

When Bu Fang looked to his right at the gigantic bovine figure whose entire body was ignited in light red flames, his eyes suddenly lit up with an intense brightness.

"What a fellow... This ingredient is far better than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig!"

There were two seventh grade spirit beasts. On the right side was the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow whose body was enveloped by everlasting flames. It possesses the head of a cow and the tail of a dragon, and its breathing sounded like the rumble of thunder.

The spirit beast on the left was seventh grade as well. It was a gigantic Spirit Ape with golden fur all over its body.

Tang Yin knew there was a seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow within the valley. However, he did not know there was a Spirit Ape as well. With two seventh grade spirit beasts guarding the valley, Tang Yin would never dare to enter even if he was given a hundred times the courage.

No matter how powerful his senior was, how could he handle two seventh grade spirit beasts at once? Even a seventh grade Battle-Saint would flee in panic if these two spirit beasts were encountered.

Rumble!

With the Wandering Dragon Cow's roar, the entire valley seemed to be trembling and continued to shake. The Spirit Ape bared its teeth and started screeching in response. The auras of the two immediately started opposing each other with equal ferocity.

The Phoenix Blood Herb atop of the small hill was swaying even more rapidly and the spirit energy leaking out was becoming even more intense. Vaguely, there seemed to be a phoenix rising from the ashes and attempting to ascend into the skies.

The Phoenix Blood Herb was about to mature.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were close to despair as well.

They understood that the entire valley would turn into a battlefield for the two seventh grade spirit beasts once the Phoenix Blood Herb matured. When that time comes, they would definitely be torn into pieces by the enraged spirit beasts.

Bu Fang ignored the others. Like the two seventh grade spirit beasts, his gaze was fixated on the Phoenix Blood Herb, the spirit herb that was precious enough to bring about the battle between two seventh grade spirit beasts.

The water plummeted from the top of the waterfall and smashed into the plunge pool below with a loud noise. Suddenly, within that single moment, the entire valley became absolutely quiet. The deafening silence was disturbing.

The thunderous roar of the waterfall disappeared. The breathing noise of the Wandering Dragon Cow also disappeared. The screeching of the Spirit Ape could not be heard as well. The entire valley seemed to have turned into a restricted zone for sound.

Atop the small hill, the Phoenix Blood Herb was swaying as red specks of light emerged from within. Red spots began to appear on the leaves and the bright red color was just like the color of burning blood. The cry of a phoenix resounded within the entire valley. After the cry ended, all of the sound returned.

The Phoenix Blood Herb... has matured!

"Moo!!" The Wandering Dragon Cow roared and its eyes abruptly turned blood red. It suddenly stepped forward with its cow hooves and charged toward the Phoenix Blood Herb. The entire valley was trembling.

The other spirit beasts behind the Wandering Dragon Cow bellowed with rage as they rushed out one after another and followed after it.

The Spirit Ape suddenly beat its chest with its fist. With a loud screech, it dashed toward the Phoenix Blood Herb as well. The horde of spirit beasts behind it also followed after it.

Bu Fang and the other two were located in-between the two approaching stampedes. They were just like a fragile boat made from leaves floating in a vast ocean. In front of these gigantic spirit beasts, it seemed as if they would be stomped into minced meat at any moment.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao had already closed their eyes in despair.

Bu Fang expressionlessly swept his gaze over the spirit beasts that were rapidly approaching them from two different directions and leisurely lifted up the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. As he raised the kitchen knife over his head, the true energy within his body immediately burst out and flowed into the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife.

A golden radiance blossomed intensely like the sun and was

extremely glaring. A gigantic, golden kitchen knife was hoisted over Bu Fang's shoulder. The boundless aura of a dragon, with Bu Fang in the center, suddenly spread in all directions and turned into a ripple.

In the next moment, the stampede of spirit beasts abruptly stopped and laid on the ground in panic.

Once the knife is drawn, all beasts shall submit!

The Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife from the God of Cooking Set... was just that overbearing!

Chapter 92: Mission Complete, And Return

The aura released by the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen was like a spreading ripple. It instantly expanded and made all of the spirit beasts lie down on the ground. The spirit beasts that were under fifth grade were all shivering from the effects of the aura.

The spirit beasts were a species with a very strict hierarchy. They worshipped the strong but also feared them as well. The suppression effect of higher grade spirit beasts toward lower grade spirit beasts was very clear. Therefore, the spirit beasts clearly divided their territories within the Wildlands.

This was the reason for the existence of the outskirts, inner layer, and central zone within the Wildlands.

The aura of the dragons was contained within the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. The dragon race had always been standing atop the food chain of the spirit beasts. They looked down upon the spirit beasts and ruled over them. They had the power to suppress any spirit beast.

Therefore, Bu Fang lifted up the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, injected his true energy, and activated the current form of the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. That blinding golden radiance, accompanied with the surging golden dragon's aura, directly forced all of the spirit beasts within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix to lie down on the ground. Even the Spirit Ape and the Wandering Dragon Cow were no exceptions.

A violent wind spread into the surroundings with Bu Fang in the center, causing his hair to flutter and his clothes to make flapping noises. He was carrying the gigantic Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife with his head held high as he expressionlessly swept his eyes over all of the spirit beasts.

Even though the Wandering Dragon Cow was a seventh grade spirit beast, the suppressive effect of the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was much stronger toward it than the other spirit beasts. The reason was the dash of dragon's blood flowing in its veins. Therefore, when facing the authentic aura of the dragon race, it could only lie on the ground while shivering.

Tang Yin had already closed his eyes in despair. However, he suddenly realized the surroundings seemed to have quieted down and getting trampled by the stampede of beasts did not happen. He suddenly opened his eyes in puzzlement and immediately saw a scene that he would never forget for the rest of his life.

Lu Xiaoxiao's frightened face was also filled with astonishment. There was still some remnants of tears on her face. Her mouth was slightly opened as she blankly stared at Bu Fang, who stood a distance away while holding a gigantic golden kitchen knife.

The area around them was filled with prostrating spirit beasts...

"This... What's going on?! Senior..." Tang Yin's mouth felt somewhat dry. Just what was he witnessing? What exactly was going on?

The spirit beasts, including the two seventh grade spirit beasts, were all actually prostrating in front of that senior. He... was actually this powerful?!

Was he subduing a horde of spirit beasts by purely relying on his aura? Was this the senior's actual strength?

Tang Yin's awe grew even more. He only felt Bu Fang was unfathomable and was even more impressive than his own sect leader... At least, his sect leader was unable to make spirit beasts prostrate.

At the moment, Bu Fang, who was only a fourth grade Battle-Spirit, was suddenly as imposing as an eighth grade War-God in his eyes.

Bu Fang was carrying the kitchen knife over his shoulders as his eyes turned toward Tang Yin, whose expression was constantly changing. He puzzledly frowned and said, "Are you guys still not going to run?"

"Ah?!" Tang Yin blankly replied.

"If I were you, I would immediately run away and never look back. I would run as far as possible," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Tang Yin suddenly sucked in a breath of cold air. He immediately understood Bu Fang's meaning. Their senior was creating a chance for them to escape! Otherwise, with their senior's unfathomable

cultivation level, he would have already started slaughtering those spirit beasts! Where would he have the time to care for them!

He felt an indescribable feeling in his chest!

Tang Yin clenched his teeth and helped the bewildered Lu Xiaoxiao up. He respectfully kowtowed toward Bu Fang and solemnly said, "Senior, I'll never be able to repay your kindness for saving our lives today. Senior... please take care!"

"Alright, hurry up and go. Oh, remember to visit Fang Fang's Little Store at the Light Wind Empire when you have the time. The food there is pretty good and the price is extremely affordable as well," Bu Fang indifferently said.

Tang Yin was surprised for a moment, then earnestly nodded and was about to leave while pulling Lu Xiaoxiao along.

"Ah! Se... Second brother, what about the Phoenix Blood Herb?!" Lu Xiaoxiao seemed to have just recovered from her shock. When she saw that Tang Yin was actually leaving while pulling her along, she immediately exclaimed in anxiety.

"Are you still thinking about the Phoenix Blood Herb? Do you want to die?" Tang Yin was furious! Their senior magnanimously created a chance for them to escape, yet this junior sister of his was still thinking about the Phoenix Blood Herb! She was simply... unreasonable!

At that moment, Lu Xiaoxiao finally realized the situation. Her entire body shivered when she glanced toward that expressionless and unfathomable Bu Fang. Then, without saying a word, she left while following Tang Yin's pace.

When Bu Fang saw the figures of the two had left the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix, his gaze once again shifted toward the spirit beasts in front of him. The true energy within his body which he used to sustain the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife's current form was gradually running out...

Therefore, Bu Fang no longer hesitated. With one hand grabbing the kitchen knife's hilt which had a sinister dragon head carved upon it, he suddenly pressed downward and the surging aura was immediately released once more.

The horde of spirit beasts lying flat on the ground all shivered...

Bu Fang pointed his kitchen knife at the Spirit Ape, lifted his face and indifferently said, "You're not suitable to be my ingredient. So... get lost!"

The figure of the Spirit Ape trembled and immediately bared its teeth toward Bu Fang. However, its eyes were still filled with horror and unwillingness.

The Phoenix Blood Herb had already matured. Giving up like this... As a seventh grade spirit beast that had just become enlightened, it was naturally unwilling to just leave.

"Hmm? You're really not leaving?" Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together. He swung the kitchen knife around a few times and walked toward the Wandering Dragon Cow.

The entire head of the Wandering Dragon Cow was buried underneath the ground and its dragon tail was curled up. It was not moving even an inch. As the possessor of the dragon race's bloodline, it was completely suppressed.

Bu Fang did not say anything as he indifferently looked toward the Spirit Ape. Then he swung his kitchen knife and sliced off the Wandering Dragon Cow's horn like it was tofu...

The Wandering Dragon Cow felt wronged... It thought, "If you wanted him to leave, shouldn't you be bothering him? Why are you bullying this cow? You really think cows are easy targets..."

As a long-time rival of the Wandering Dragon Cow, the Spirit Ape naturally knew quite well how hard and sharp its horn was... However, this horn was actually sliced off with a single swing by this human with a terrifying aura... It thought, "Fine, this good monkey shall not pick a fight with a cunning human like you!"

With a sharp screech, the seventh grade Spirit Ape while filled with reluctance leapt out of the valley with a single bound and instantly vanished.

The spirit beasts following the Spirit Ape also receded like tidewater.

Using the same method to drive off the spirit beasts behind the Wandering Dragon Cow, the entire valley was only left with Bu Fang, who was carrying the gigantic Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife over his shoulder, and the shivering Wandering Dragon Cow, who was missing a horn...

Bu Fang patted the Wandering Dragon Cow's gigantic body as he clicked his tongue and exclaimed in wonder, "Not bad, this ingredient is far better than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig."

The Wandering Dragon Cow's big head was filled with suspicions... Ingredient? What ingredient?

In the next moment, in the eyes of the Wandering Dragon Cow, the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen gradually grew bigger... and bigger... sphhhlt.

The true energy within Bu Fang's body finally ran out and he was unable to sustain the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife's current form. It transformed back into its unassuming appearance and disappeared after turning into green smoke.

Bu Fang patted the Wandering Dragon Cow's gigantic body once more. With a wave of his hand, he stored it into the dimensional bag provided by the system.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the abrupt mission: carry out the first ingredient capture. The system reward will now be released. After a minute, the return teleportation will be carried out. Would the host please get ready," the system's solemn voice

resounded within Bu Fang's mind, just as the corpse of the Wandering Dragon Cow was stored.

Bu Fang was startled. Only a minute was left? The Phoenix Blood Herb was still not harvested yet!

Above Bu Fang's head, a speck of light had already appeared. This speck of light was slowly drawing a mysterious teleportation magic array. Regarding this, Bu Fang was already used to it.

Bu Fang did not hesitate as he turned around and ran toward the small hill. Above his head, the speck of light was still drawing. As time went by, the magic array was already halfway to completion.

"Ten seconds left until return. Begin countdown. Ten... Nine..."

Bu Fang was still expressionless, but his anxiety could be seen in his eyes. He was getting closer and closer to the Phoenix Blood Herb, but the countdown was also getting closer to finishing...

"Just give me one more second... I can pry open the entire valley!" Bu Fang shouted in his mind as he leapt with all his strength and grabbed onto the Phoenix Blood Herb that was ascending into the skies like a phoenix. A sharp pain was instantly transmitted from his palm into his mind!

However, before he could scream from the pain, the drawing of the magic array was completed. A burst of violent wind emerged and then dissipated...

The Valley of the Fallen Phoenix regained its peace once more. The flow of the waterfall continued its natural course. Everything was as usual.

Chapter 93: The Fragrant, Smooth, And Tasty Rice Noodle Roll

Light Wind Empire, imperial city, Fang Fang's Little Store.

A speck of light appeared within the empty space of the store. Then, this speck of light rapidly flew around the air while drawing a magic array. A burst of violent wind cropped up and a figure appeared within the magic array.

Bu Fang came back to the store in a trance. He was having dizzy spells as he fell down on his buttocks and gasped for air with deep breaths.

"The host has already returned to the store. The system reward will now be released," the system's solemn voice resounded within Bu Fang's mind.

However, Bu Fang ignored the message. His gaze was fixated on the fiery-red herb tightly grasped in his hand. The herb felt extremely hot as he held it within his hand. It was like holding a piece of magma.

"Thankfully, I still managed to catch it. Otherwise, after toiling for so long, it would be a huge loss if I had missed this seventh grade spirit herb." The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened and a faint smile seemed to appear on his rigid face.

The Phoenix Blood Herb was entirely red in color. After

maturation, the herb became even more dazzling as if it was carved from an exquisite red agate. On its surface, it was filled with dark red spots as if it was stained with blood.

Grasping the herb in his hand, he felt an extreme hotness. However, this hotness was not felt on his skin but in his mind.

After finding a jade box, he placed the Phoenix Blood Herb inside. He did not choose to store it within the dimensional bag provided by the system, but kept it within a cabinet.

Similarly, he took out the Sage Herb he harvested from within the dimensional bag. This plump Sage Herb was exuding an enticing fragrance.

Bu Fang endured the temptation as he placed the Sage Herb into a jade box before storing it into the cabinet as well.

After completing all of these actions, only then did Bu Fang heavily breathe out. As he stretched himself, the joints within his body produced popping sounds. Contrary to his expectation, his first ingredient capture was a meaningful experience.

"As expected of the God of Cooking set. Without the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, I really wouldn't be able to do anything. No wonder the system waited until I obtained the God of Cooking set before initiating this ingredient capture mission." Bu Fang stretched his sore neck as he headed up the stairs.

Bu Fang first took a shower. His hair was let loose and water was still dripping off the ends as he returned to his room while feeling more refreshed.

After spending two days hunting for ingredients, Bu Fang was feeling tired. It was time for him to have a good sleep.

However, before he could go to sleep, he needed to find out more about the mission reward that was newly released by the system.

"The Rice Noodle Roll cooking technique?" Bu Fang narrowed his eyes. He was actually very interested in this new dish. As a chef, he was naturally familiar with the Rice Noodle Roll. After all, this was an extremely delicious breakfast.

The Rice Noodle Roll was a type of rice product. It was also known as steamed rice roll, jyu cheung fan, and chee cheong fun. It was considered a relatively simple dish. The main point was making the thin wrappers by steaming the rice milk and then wrapping the freshly stir-fried filling with the thin wrappers.

As Bu Fang pondered the Rice Noodle Roll's cooking method in his mind, he felt an itch to try it out. He was eager to cook the new dish and have a taste. However, after considering for a while, he gave up in the end.

The main reason was after expending too much true energy, he was rather tired and feeling somewhat languid. The other reason was that the Rice Noodle Roll was a breakfast dish and waking up earlier to cook it was the best choice.

Therefore, Bu Fang endured the impulse to get up and practice the dish. He lay down on his bed and soon fell asleep.

The night quietly passed.

The next day, Bu Fang got up from bed just as the sun rose, and stretched his body. After washing up, he went into the kitchen and first practiced his knife work. His Level One Meteor Knife Technique was already close to culmination. He would most probably be able to reach culmination after practicing for one more day.

After finishing his knife work practice, Bu Fang made a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. This was Blacky's daily meal and Bu Fang was extremely experienced with making this dish. Soon, a rich, captivating aroma of meat was wafting within the kitchen.

Carrying the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs to the dining area, Bu Fang opened up the entrance and the cold wind immediately blew into the store. The imperial city of the Light Wind Empire had already officially entered winter. The sky was overcast as if foreshadowing heavy snow.

"Blacky, it's time to eat." Bu Fang arrived in front of Blacky with the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. The gluttonous dog instantly jumped up and excitedly stared at the plate in Bu Fang's hands with its tongue hanging out.

"Deprived of food for two days... Your lord dog is craving to

death!" Blacky thought as his eyes gleamed while staring fixedly at the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

That bewitching aroma of the meat was almost causing Blacky to degenerate. When Bu Fang placed the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of it, it eagerly began gobbling down the meat on the plate.

It was still the same recipe with the same taste! This... was the taste of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs!

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up as he watched Blacky gobble down the food while wagging its tail. He turned around and entered the kitchen. He was about to start cooking the Rice Noodle Roll.

He first took out the rice milk prepared by the system. The rice milk was pure white like milk and was exuding a faint fragrance. Evidently, the rice used to make it was not ordinary.

He poured the rice milk into a specially-made tray. This tray was not thick, so the height of the rice milk layer was not that high either. It was around two millimeters. After pouring the rice milk, Bu Fang placed the tray onto the steam rack to be cooked.

While the rice milk was being steamed, Bu Fang began preparing the filling needed for the Rice Noodle Roll.

"Pork or beef, shrimp, bok choy, dried radish granules..." Bu Fang muttered as he prepared these ingredients.

However, as he was about to take out the pork prepared by the system, he suddenly paused for a moment. An idea could not help but surface within his mind.

"System, what if I were to replace this pork with the meat of the Wandering Dragon Cow... is it feasible?" Bu Fang asked.

"Yes. However, since an ingredient would be replaced, the price of the dish will change," the system seriously replied.

"Hmm? How will it change?" Bu Fang asked in curiosity.

The system's solemn voice resounded within his mind once more. "The original filling of the Rice Noodle Roll uses pork from a third grade spirit beast. After the host replaces the ingredient with the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow, the price of the Rice Noodle Roll will be increased from ten crystals to sixty crystals per serving."

Increased from ten crystals to sixty crystals... Bu Fang blinked his eyes. He could not help but exclaim in his mind, "As expected of a seventh grade ingredient, it definitely doesn't disappoint. However, there's probably no one who would chose to eat such an expensive serving of Rice Noodle Roll."

"System, could you treat the Rice Noodle Roll with the meat of the Wandering Dragon Cow as filling as the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll?"

"Of course," the system replied. This was actually the same as the Egg-Fried Rice and Improved Egg-Fried Rice.

Bu Fang nodded. Green smoke emerged around his wrist and the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife appeared in his hand. He started off with the filling needed for the dish. He first cooked the third grade spirit pork in preparation for making the normal Rice Noodle Roll. After he finished preparing the filling, he took out a small piece of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat. With the gigantic size of the Wandering Dragon Cow, using such a small piece was not a big deal.

With the two types of filling readied, the rice milk was done as well.

As Bu Fang took the tray out, clouds of white steam rose into the air. The steam was mixed with the rich, mesmerizing aroma of rice, causing him to deeply inhale.

He separated the steamed gelatinous sheet from the tray. The sheet was crystal clear like jade, smooth as a mirror, and pleasing to the eyes.

The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife in Bu Fang's hands performed a few spins and the sheet was equally sliced into rectangular-shaped pieces.

Bu Fang first placed the filling made from third grade spirit pork, shrimps, and dried radish granules onto one of the pieces, and then

carefully wrapped it up. A "white as snow, thin as paper, shiny, fragrant, smooth, and delicious" Rice Noodle Roll was completed.

Chapter 94: The Rice Noodle Roll That Costs Twenty Crystals Per Mouthful

Bu Fang brought the Rice Noodle Roll that was like an exquisitely carved jade into the dining area. As he looked at the glistening Rice Noodle Roll, a soft growl came from his stomach.

The fragrance of the Rice Noodle Roll was not strong—perhaps due to the filling being enveloped within the wrapper—but its appearance was extremely appetizing. At least, Bu Fang was already unable to hold himself back any longer.

When eating Rice Noodle Roll, a special sauce should naturally be used. Just the thought of eating the smooth and tasty Rice Noodle Roll dipped with the savory sour sauce was enough to excite anyone.

After he took a bite of the Rice Noodle Roll, the oil immediately seeped out from the meat filling. The accumulated fragrance burst out at that moment and instantly rushed into Bu Fang's face, causing him to involuntarily lapse into an euphoric state. The wrapping of the Rice Noodle Roll was gratifyingly smooth and its texture was extremely good. It slightly bounced around in his mouth and produced a springy feeling when he bit down.

As expected, the products provided by the system were definitely the finest. The taste of the Rice Noodle Roll was indeed pretty good and was certainly worthy of its pricing of ten crystals. Bu Fang nodded as he continued to gobble down the Rice Noodle Roll.

"Oh my! Owner Bu, you're finally opened! I've missed you so much for the past two days!"

While Bu Fang was eating the Rice Noodle Roll, a boorish voice came from outside the store. Fatty Jin and his buddies had arrived in a majestic manner and they immediately spotted Bu Fang as they stepped into the store.

Fatty Jin's eyes immediately lit up and seemed rather impatient as he inhaled the fragrance wafting within the store.

"Owner Bu, have you added another new dish?" Fatty Jin asked.

"Oh... That's right," Bu Fang mumbled as he glanced at Fatty Jin with his mouth stuffed with the Rice Noodle Roll.

Fatty Jin swallowed his saliva and a series of growls involuntarily sounded out from his stomach as he watched Bu Fang finish off the last piece of Rice Noodle Roll. He turned his head and looked at the menu on the wall.

"The new dish is... Rice Noodle Roll, right? Eh? There's an improved version like the Egg-Fried Rice?" Fatty Jin exclaimed. When he took another look at the price, he saw that the ordinary Rice Noodle Roll was ten crystals per serving while the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll was... Good heavens! Sixty crystals per serving?!

"Owner Bu... The difference in the prices is ridiculous!" Fatty Jin

said as he turned his head and looked toward Bu Fang, who was tidying up after finishing the food.

"Once you have a taste, you'll understand the reason for the pricing," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied before he went back into the kitchen. He placed the plate into the automatic dishwasher and returned to the dining area.

Fatty Jin was actually feeling rather conflicted. Although he was rich, spending a few hundred crystals per day was somewhat unbearable even if his family owned a crystal mine.

"I'll have a serving of the ordinary Rice Noodle Roll first, as well as a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Red Braised Meat each. Oh, I'll have the Improved Egg-Fried Rice as well! After eating Owner Bu's Egg-Fried Rice, my cultivating speed has become much faster," Fatty Jin said with a chuckle.

"Alright, wait a moment," Bu Fang said with a nod. After he noted the orders of the others, he turned around and went back into the kitchen.

Now that Bu Fang obtained the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, his knife work had improved quite a bit. His speed when handling the ingredients was also much faster than before. After a short while, he finished dealing with the ingredients of the dishes and started cooking.

A rich fragrance once again drifted out from the kitchen and into the dining area of the store, causing Fatty Jin and his buddies to

involuntarily lapse into an euphoric state.

"The dishes cooked by Owner Bu still smell the best. Smelling the aroma alone is enough to make one feel a sense of satisfaction." Fatty Jin hummed in euphoria.

After a while, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen while carrying a dish. The first dish he served to Fatty Jin was the Rice Noodle Roll, which was also the dish that Fatty Jin wanted to eat the most. Since it was a new dish, he wanted to try it out.

"Here's your Rice Noodle Roll, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang said as he placed the plate of Rice Noodle Roll as well as a condiment bowl filled with sauce in front of Fatty Jin.

When Fatty Jin saw the crystal-clear Rice Noodle Roll that looked like a piece of artwork, he could not help but lick his lips. He immediately picked up the Rice Noodle Roll, dipped it in the sauce and impatiently took a bite.

As he bit into the springy wrapper that contained the aromatic spirit pork, the oil that overflowed into Fatty Jin's mouth caused his entire body to tremble in happiness and his eyes to instantly light up.

"Delicious! Owner Bu's dishes are indeed all excellent!" Fatty Jin licked his lips clean before he continued eating the Rice Noodle Roll. However, with his food intake, the entire serving of Rice Noodle Roll only lasted three bites.

As Fatty Jin sucked on his fingers, the flesh on his face was almost scrunched together. With such a small serving, he was still not satisfied.

However, Fang Fang's Little Store only allowed dishes to be ordered once...

"Owner Bu, give me a serving of the Improved Rice Noodle Roll!" Unable to resist the temptation any longer, Fatty clenched his teeth and ordered the Improved Rice Noodle Roll, which was six times costlier than the normal version.

Bu Fang, who was in the kitchen, was surprised for a moment. Then, the corners of his mouth widened into a smile as he nodded.

Only after Bu Fang served Fatty Jin's remaining orders as well as the other's orders, did he finally start cooking Fatty Jin's Improved Rice Noodle Roll.

There was basically no difference in the steps for the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll. The main difference was in the filling. The ingredient used was the meat of the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow that Bu Fang personally acquired.

Bu Fang sliced off a small piece of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat. It was extremely fresh and tender and the marbling on its surface seemed to be glistening with vibrant colors. A dense amount of spirit energy was packed within the meat.

Bu Fang used the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife to turn the piece of beef into mincemeat. Since the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife had the ability to preserve the spirit energy within the ingredients, the spirit energy within the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat was perfectly retained.

After the cooking finished, the aroma of the meat was like a bomb had exploded within the kitchen. Even the obese men in the dining area were attracted by the smell. They were swallowing their salivas as they looked toward Bu Fang's direction.

"What kind of meat is this... What a strong fragrance! I've never smelled any meat as aromatic as this before!" This was what the obese men were thinking. Their expectations were high for the next dish Bu Fang was about to bring out.

Soon, a slim and tall figure walked out of the kitchen. His slender fingers were grasping a porcelain plate and a crystal-clear Rice Noodle Roll was placed in the middle...

Everyone's eyes that were originally filled with expectation immediately revealed a trace of disappointment. So, it was still a Rice Noodle Roll...

On the other hand, Fatty Jin did not care. He was the one who was going to eat it after all. Thus, he cheerfully waited for the Improved Rice Noodle Roll.

"You fools! This is the Improved Rice Noodle Roll, which costs sixty crystals per serving! How could you judge its quality from the

appearance? You need to focus on the inner beauty!" The pudgy flesh on Fatty Jin's face continuously trembled.

"Improved Rice Noodle Roll, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang simply said.

Fatty Jin glanced at Bu Fang before he picked up the Rice Noodle Roll and dipped it with a little bit of sauce. His hand was trembling as he sent it into his mouth.

This mouthful... was exactly twenty crystals!

Fatty Jin felt as if he was not biting a Rice Noodle Roll... but an expensive crystal essence!

So, he acted very carefully. After taking a bite, he even pursed his lips so that not even a single piece of minced meat was wasted.

As the Rice Noodle Roll entered his mouth, Fatty Jin immediately felt the difference. His eyes were originally very small. However, as everyone watched, his tiny eyes actually widened to the max within a second.

His nostrils widened and two streams of hot air gushed out! Within that hot air, dense amount of spirit energy was present!

Gulp!

After chewing for a while, Fatty Jin swallowed the piece of Rice Noodle Roll in his mouth. He sighed in relief as if he had just experienced a roller coaster ride.

"How's the taste?" Bu Fang asked in curiosity. Even he had not tasted the Improved Rice Noodle Roll yet. However, Bu Fang was very confident that the taste of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat would be good.

Fatty Jin's lips were trembling as spirit energy continued to gush out from his nostrils. He looked at Bu Fang and gave two thumbs up.

"It's unparalleled! It's extremely delicious!" Fatty Jin grinned as he said, "This dense amount of spirit energy... made the true energy within my body instantly reach the bottleneck! My confidence in advancing to the next level has become even higher!"

After Fatty Jin finished praising the dish, he did not say anything further. He finished off the rest of the Rice Noodle Roll and hurriedly paid the bill before leaving with his buddies.

He wanted to go home and advance to the next level.

Bu Fang breathed a sigh of relief in his mind as well. "Looks like the reaction isn't bad for the ingredient I personally acquired..."

After cleaning up the tableware, the interior of the store became

deserted for a moment.

Bu Fang pulled a chair toward the entrance and curled up on it. As he stared at the empty alleyway—which was already repaired by the crown prince's men—a question surfaced in his mind.

"Usually, shouldn't that girl have already arrived by now? Why isn't she here yet? Did she forget that the store is opened today?"

Bu Fang thought as he cozily yawned.

Chapter 95: The Imperial City's First Snow

Imperial city, Ouyang manor.

The elderly Ouyang's expression was stern as he sat above the great hall. Most of the Ouyang family members were present within the hall.

Ouyang Zongheng was solemn as a statue as he sat below his father. The mood within the hall was extremely serious.

Xiaoyi was sulking with a pout on her face and her large eyes were filled with dissatisfaction. She glanced at the elderly Ouyang sitting above the great hall and bitterly snorted as she turned her head away.

"You rascals, watch Xiaoyi properly. She's absolutely not allowed to take even half a step outside of the manor today." The elderly Ouyang's head ached whenever he saw Ouyang Xiaoyi's behavior, but he still pulled a long face as he instructed the three barbarians of Ouyang.

The three barbarians of Ouyang nodded. Their eyes were sternly fixated on Ouyang Xiaoyi. However, when they were glared at by the sullen Ouyang Xiaoyi, the three brothers immediately looked away in guilt.

"Grandpa! Why am I not allowed to go out! The store still needs my help!" Ouyang Xiaoyi indignantly asked the elderly Ouyang.

The elderly Ouyang scowled at her. "Xiaoyi, grandpa is only thinking for your sake. For the past few days, the situation within the imperial city has become grim. The crown prince and the second prince has been openly roping in the imperial court's officials. They're willing to do anything in order to pull people to their side! We're afraid for your safety!"

"Even if that's the case... You still can't stop me from helping out at the store!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was still unhappy as she pouted her mouth while puffing up her cheeks and said.

"Help... What sort of help can you provide! You're the daughter of a general! How could you always run around in public and even work as a waitress in a restaurant! What a disgrace!" The elderly Ouyang was exasperated by the stubborn Xiaoyi. His beard was twitching with anger.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard his words, she suddenly held her arms across her chest. She coldly glanced at the elderly Ouyang and softly laughed. "Grandpa, that's not what you were saying yesterday! When I advanced to fourth grade Battle-Spirit, you were definitely overjoyed! You were even glad to let me be a waitress everyday!"

The elderly Ouyang's body stiffened as a hint of embarrassment appeared on his face. However, a grin soon appeared on his face as he shamelessly said, "If I say you can't go, then you can't go! Today, you still have to obediently stay within the manor!"

"Hmph! Smelly grandpa! I am going to ignore you from now on!"

Ouyang Xiaoyi was furious! She snorted toward the elderly Ouyang and left the great hall in a huff with her head held high.

"What are you three rascals doing! Go and watch over that girl!" The elderly Ouyang angrily shouted at the three barbarians of Ouyang, who were busy watching the show.

Below the elderly Ouyang, Ouyang Zongheng was wiping away his cold sweat as he thought, "Father... What kind of example are you setting for the youngsters..."

The elderly Ouyang calmed down after the three barbarians of Ouyang left in low spirits. He turned his head toward Ouyang Zongheng and asked, "What's the situation on His Majesty's side?"

Ouyang Zongheng's expression immediately turned cold as he solemnly replied, "His Majesty's condition is not optimistic."

The elderly Ouyang suddenly sighed. The emperor had spent his youth leading campaigns against the sects and fought with many experts. His wounds accumulated and left hidden ailments throughout his body. Now that he reached old age, even the mighty Emperor Changfeng was unable to withstand these hidden ailments that suddenly flared up.

Ouyang Zongheng helplessly sighed as well. The situation within the imperial city was already somewhat grim. If the emperor

passed away, the entire imperial city would instantly descend into chaos. This was also the reason the elderly Ouyang prohibited Ouyang Xiaoyi from leaving the manor.

For a while, the great hall became quiet and no one said a word.

After a long time, a lone figure rapidly approached the great hall. He swiftly entered the great hall and knelt before the elderly Ouyang with a sealed envelope held in his hand.

The elderly Ouyang's eyelids twitched as he opened the envelope and rapidly scanned its contents.

When he finished reading, his complexion was extremely dreadful and his beard was trembling.

Ouyang Zongheng swallowed his saliva, and asked, "Father... What's the situation?"

With a burst of true energy emitted from his hand, the letter was immediately turned into ashes. The elderly Ouyang's eyes contained a trace of melancholy and sorrow.

"His Majesty... passed away."

As the elderly Ouyang said those words, he seemed to have aged ten years within an instant.

...

On the main road of the imperial city, a petite figure was skipping while heading toward Fang Fang's Little Store.

"Hmph! Stupid grandpa, you actually let my three foolish brothers watch over me. With how thickheaded they are, how could they watch over the resourceful and intelligent Xiaoyi!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes were curved into crescents. When she thought about her grandpa's fuming expression when he realized she ran away, she could not help but exult in her mind.

"Eh? It's snowing."

Ouyang Xiaoyi was walking along when she suddenly exclaimed and raised her head in puzzlement. A burst of winter wind blew across the grey skies and then snowflakes as white as goose feathers silently descended.

Xiaoyi stretched out her fair hand and a snowflake fell onto her palm. It silently melted and turned into ice-cold, bone-chilling water. It was like the sky was weeping.

"How beautiful," Xiaoyi expelled a white cloud of breath as she softly muttered. She flung off the water on her palm and continued moving forward.

The arrival of the imperial city's first snow was that sudden. The pedestrians on the main road all stopped to admire the snow for a

while before they hurriedly resumed walking.

Behind Ouyang Xiaoyi, several figures suddenly started to follow her. Within an instant, they sped up and completely surrounded her.

Xiaoyi's large eyes suddenly widened as true energy immediately burst forth from her body in order to escape their encirclement.

However, the cultivation level of the attackers were high. They were actually all fifth grade Battle-Kings. Ouyang Xiaoyi was captured before she could make any attempts to escape.

"Let go of me! My father is General Ouyang and my grandfather is a doyen of the current dynasty! If you kidnap me... you'll be beaten up!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was infuriated! There was actually someone who was brazen enough to kidnap a general's daughter within the imperial city!

Those Battle-King experts glanced at Ouyang Xiaoyi. They could not even be bothered to give a reply as they immediately stuffed a rag into her mouth and carried her away.

"Go back and report to the young master that the mission is completed."

One of the figures nodded, and then, he instantly separated from the group as the tip of his toes tapped the ground.

...

Bu Fang was curled up on his chair. As he watched the heavy snow slowly descending from the gray skies, he subconsciously curled up his body even more.

It was snowing and the weather became colder as well.

There were very few customers on that day, to the point where Bu Fang was not used to it. Basically, those regular customers did not appear.

"Is it because it's snowing?" Bu Fang softly muttered while he remained curled up on the chair.

Suddenly, the sound of messy footsteps came from within the alleyway as three bear-like, boorish figures appeared in front of the store.

"Eh? Isn't this the really invincible Ouyang brothers?" Bu Fang thought. He was slightly surprised as he puzzledly looked at the anxious Ouyang brothers that appeared in front of his store.

"Owner Bu... Is that girl, Xiaoyi, here?" Ouyang Zhen immediately asked while breathing heavily.

"That girl actually deceived us and secretly snuck out! What happened to the basic trust between siblings!" Ouyang Di said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the three brothers and simply said, "Ouyang Xiaoyi didn't come here today."

"She's not here?! How could that... She..." Ouyang Wu glared at Bu Fang. Then, he seemed to have thought of something. The expressions of the three brothers suddenly changed as they looked at each other and said, "Oh no!"

Xiaoyi secretly snuck out in order to help out at the store. However, she was not inside the store... There was only one possibility.

"Motherfucker, these bunch of despicable scumbags dare to kidnap my sister..." Ouyang Zhen angrily shouted. The three brothers immediately turned after and left in a rage, leaving a bewildered Bu Fang behind.

As Bu Fang expressionlessly watched the three of them leaving, the corners of his mouth widened into a bemused smile. "These three brothers... must have turned stupid."

Chapter 96: Who Kidnapped The Little Girl?

Within the Xiao manor, Xiao Meng blankly stared at the secret letter in his hand without saying anything.

After a long while, Xiao Meng let out a deep sigh. He raised his head and looked toward the direction of the imperial palace's Great Hall. His eyes were filled with sorrow and indescribable grief.

"Father, what happened?" Xiao Yanyu worriedly asked with a frown as she looked at her father's sorrowful appearance.

Xiao Xiaolong puzzledly looked at his powerful father as well. Since earlier on in the morning, Xiao Meng forbade them from leaving the manor. The two siblings who were planning to head to Fang Fang's Little Store to enjoy delicious food were extremely bewildered.

Xiao Yanyu had an astute mind and she was more perceptive than the carefree Ouyang Xiaoyi. She could guess that the reason their father forbade them from leaving the Xiao manor was probably for their own safety.

If they needed protection even while they were inside the imperial city, it could only mean one thing. The imperial city was no longer safe, or... it was no longer safe for those with important statuses like the children of court officials.

"Has the imperial city descended into chaos?" Xiao Yanyu's voice that was like the singing of birds rang out as she asked Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng glanced at Xiao Yanyu. The muscles on his face slightly trembled before he slowly opened his mouth.

"His Majesty... passed away."

When Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong heard those words, their bodies shuddered and then their eyes suddenly widened...

The Xiao family was not the only one who received the news. The various rich and powerful bigwigs living within the imperial city were informed as well. The news of the emperor's death was like a tsunami that instantly engulfed the imperial city.

The ruler of a generation, Emperor Changfeng... had passed away.

This was like a tumultuous earthquake for the entire Light Wind Empire.

The situation within the imperial city was already quite uncertain. With the death of the emperor, the city immediately became turbulent. The fight over the throne between the crown prince and the second prince was also completely moved into the open.

This could be seen from the fact that all of the bigwigs in the imperial city were making their children obediently stay within their manors.

Once the fight over the throne began, the princes would need to rope in helpers. They needed the support of the court officials and they had to win this support on their own. In order to gain the allegiance of the court officials, they would make use of unscrupulous methods like blackmail, kidnapping... They would use any method available to achieve their goal.

On this day, the news of Emperor Changfeng's passing spread. The crown prince, Ji Chengan, as well as King Yu hurriedly entered the imperial palace and headed for the Great Hall.

After approximately an hour or so, the crown prince and King Yu left the imperial palace. After preparing horses and carriages, they began visiting the manors of each court official in order to enlist their support.

The fight between the crown prince and King Yu had finally turned into a showdown.

...

Zhao manor, the official residence of the Minister of the Left, Zhao Musheng.

As the Light Wind Empire's Minister of the Left, Zhao Musheng's position was so great that even the princes had to treat him courteously. It was to the point where his rank within the Light Wind Empire could be said to be second only to its guardian, Xiao Meng.

Zhao Musheng's was not considered old. He looked rather healthy from his overall appearance. However, his hair color that alternated between black and white gave him the feeling of vicissitude.

He was sitting in a wooden armchair with his eyes slightly narrowed and slapping his belly with one hand.

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps came from beyond the door and a figure stepped into the room..

"Father! Your child has returned," Zhao Ruge stepped into the room in a brocade robe and respectfully greeted Zhao Musheng, who was seated in the armchair.

"Has the matter been settled?" Zhao Musheng narrowed his eyes and simply asked.

"The matter was completed without a hitch. However... Why did father send someone to abduct Ouyang Xiaoyi? Are you not afraid of angering that madman, Ouyang Qi?" Zhao Ruge looked at Zhao Musheng in puzzlement. He could not understand why they participated in this messy situation under this sort of circumstances.

"Ji Changfeng is dead. Now that he's dead, the pot of soup called the imperial city is finally going to boil. In order to make this pot of soup even tastier, we'll need to add some condiments..." Zhao Musheng opened his eyes. His eyes were profoundly harmonious

and seemed to possess a calming aura.

Zhao Ruge's reverence toward his father became even stronger.

"Leave now, and make sure that girl isn't mistreated. We only brought her here to bring things to a head. If she gets hurt, Ouyang Qi will really try to kill us. That old fogey really cherishes this granddaughter of his," Zhao Musheng said with a chuckle.

"We'll have him cause trouble with the crown prince and King Yu first. Let him stir up this pot of soup..."

Zhao Ruge was startled for a moment and then seemed to have understood something. A hint of a smile tugged at the corners of his mouth as he nodded and left.

As Zhao Musheng watched Zhao Ruge's disappearing figure, he chuckled once more.

After Zhao Ruge left the room Zhao Musheng was in, he walked for a while inside of the Zhao manor and soon arrived before a room guarded by two Battle-Kings.

"Watch after that girl properly. She's very clever. Don't give her a chance to escape," Zhao Ruge solemnly said.

The two Battle-Kings gravely nodded.

As Zhao Ruge gazed at the quiet room, the corners of his mouth widened into a smile. "I am really curious. If Owner Bu found out that this girl was kidnapped... What would he do? Would he immediately rush over while bringing along that iron lump? That would be interesting."

...

Within the crown prince's palace, the crown prince had a forced smile plastered on his face as he looked at the menacing elderly Ouyang. This doyen level figure was not someone he could afford to anger.

"Elder, I can vouch with my life that I've never touched a single hair on Ouyang Xiaoyi!" Ji Chengan's expression was solemn as he took an oath-taking pose while facing the elderly Ouyang.

"Motherfucker! Who else could it be other than you? If my precious Xiaoyi is missing even a single strand of hair, I am going to fucking demolish this crown prince palace of yours!" The elderly Ouyang's temper was not good. He was cursing and swearing while pointing at the crown prince's nose. He was scolding the crown prince to the point where the crown prince almost lost his composure.

However, the crown prince had no other choice. He could only maintain a forced smile as he watched the elderly Ouyang leave with a strut.

Similarly, after the elderly Ouyang left the crown prince's palace,

he immediately headed toward King Yu's manor. He chewed out King Yu as well, but he still could not obtain any information on Ouyang Xiaoyi.

However, after the two princes were scolded by the elderly Ouyang, they kept in check their overt actions and their confrontations became less brazen.

After returning to the Ouyang manor, the elderly Ouyang had already lost the dominance he had when scolding the crown prince and King Yu. His expression became rather unpleasant.

If King Yu and the crown prince were not responsible for abducting Xiaoyi, then who was the culprit?

Within the imperial city, who would have the nerve to capture Ouyang Qi's granddaughter?

The elderly Ouyang pondered for a while. Finally, a name surfaced in his mind... Zhao Musheng?!

...

For the past three days, the amount of customers that visited Fang Fang Little Store's became very small. It reached a point where Bu Fang was bored to death everyday. He could not sense the stormy situation within the imperial city. The only thing he could sense was that his customers had decreased in number.

Ouyang Xiaoyi did not come to the store during the three days either. Bu Fang found out that the situation within the imperial city was extremely grim from Fatty Jin, who came on time everyday to eat. Every single influential family was carefully choosing a faction to side with.

With the passing of the emperor, the crown prince and King Yu began fighting over the throne.

Bu Fang was perplexed after hearing all of this information. He was completely clueless about the so-called fight over the throne. After listening for a short while, he walked away in bewilderment. However, the news about the emperor passing away still made him lament.

However, he was extremely concerned about the news regarding Ouyang Xiaoyi's abduction. After all, the girl was still his waitress, someone who belonged to Fang Fang's Little Store. Since she was Bu Fang's employee, he would not allow her to be easily bullied.

Bu Fang was curled up on his chair, watching the heavy snow that continuously descended. The pure white snow had already begun covering the entire imperial city with a layer of silver coating, giving the city an exquisite appearance.

"Owner Bu, you seem to be free. Looks like I came at the right time." A familiar voice—that was mild but contained a bit of arrogance—rang out.

Zhao Ruge was standing at the entrance of the store, looking at

Bu Fang with a smile on his face.

Chapter 97: Owner Bu, Do You Feel No Shame

Zhao Ruge was wearing a brocade robe and had a refined and handsome appearance. He was standing at the entrance of the store with a smile on his face as he looked toward Bu Fang, who was curled up on a chair.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows in surprise. He recognized this fellow who tried to tempt him with crystals on two separate occasions but he resolutely turned him down. However, despite their brief encounter, Bu Fang still remembered Zhao Ruge's appearance.

Bu Fang stood up from his chair. He glanced at Zhao Ruge and asked, "What are you ordering?"

Zhao Ruge stepped into the store and shook off the snow that had clung onto him. He expelled a cloud of breath before he sat down on a chair. After taking a glance at the menu, he realized the store had added many new dishes since his last visit.

As the delicious dishes cooked by Bu Fang involuntarily surfaced within his mind, his stomach slightly growled in response. Zhao Ruge ordered a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Improved Egg-Fried Rice, as well as a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

Bu Fang nodded. He went back into the kitchen and started cooking the dishes. After a while, a rich aroma wafted out from the kitchen. That fragrance was extremely strong, causing Zhao Ruge

to sniff the air.

After a long while, Bu Fang's slender figure walked out from the kitchen while carrying a dish in his hand and he placed it in front of Zhao Ruge.

Zhao Ruge did not immediately start eating. Even though the rising steam emanating from the dish was continuously arousing his appetite, Zhao Ruge still managed to endure it. His eyes appeared to be smiling as they landed on Bu Fang.

"Owner Bu, where's Xiaoyi? Didn't she come here today?" Zhao Ruge's tone contained a trace of mockery.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at him, then pulled out a chair and sat down. He sat upright in front of Zhao Ruge. Everything was completed in an unhurried and leisure manner.

"She didn't come today," Bu Fang simply replied as his pitch-black pupils locked onto Zhao Ruge's cheek.

Zhao Ruge was extremely calm. Even though Bu Fang was staring right at him, there was not even a slightest change in his expression. After suffering so many losses within the store, this was the first time he felt he was holding the initiative. He could use the attitude of a superior to face Bu Fang.

"Is Owner Bu not curious why she didn't come?" Zhao Ruge asked as the corners of his mouth curled up.

Bu Fang did not reply this time around and only watched Zhao Ruge. Zhao Ruge was not flustered either. With a faint smile, he removed the cloth cover of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and poured a cup of wine for himself. The rich aroma of wine immediately spread into the surroundings. As the aroma hovered around the tip of his nose, an euphoric expression was revealed on his face.

In the past, he used to believe the number one wine within the Light Wind Empire was the imperial palace's Bejewelled Nectar Wine. However, ever since he tasted the store's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, he was completely subdued by this fine wine.

"Owner Bu, do you want a cup as well?" Zhao Ruge shook the blue and white porcelain wine cup in his hand as he asked Bu Fang out of politeness.

"Oh, hold on," Bu Fang softly replied. Then, under the embarrassed gaze of Zhao Ruge, he stood up and headed toward the kitchen. After a while, he returned with a clean porcelain wine cup.

"Fill it to the brim, don't be shy," Bu Fang said.

Zhao Ruge was speechless as he looked at Bu Fang. He thought, "Don't you realize I was only being polite? With our relationship, do you think I would treat you to a drink? This wine costs fifteen crystals per jar, and more importantly, there isn't much of it in the first place."

Under Bu Fang's sincere gaze, Zhao Ruge was unable to refuse his request out of politeness. He could only fill Bu Fang's wine cup to the brim with a deadpan expression.

Bu Fang raised the wine cup to his mouth and took a sip of wine, revealing a trace of contentment in his eyes.

With the cold temperature and the snow fluttering about outside of the store, warming up the body with fine wine was such a wonderful pleasure...

"Owner Bu, are you really not curious why Xiaoyi did not come?" Zhao Ruge asked once more. He finished the wine within his cup and narrowed his eyes at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang glanced at him as he placed the already emptied wine cup on the table and he took the liberty of grabbing the wine jar. After filling up his wine cup to the brim, he simply replied, "Why do I need to know..."

Zhao Ruge expressionlessly watched as Bu Fang unceremoniously drank the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that he ordered. He suddenly felt a touch of sadness as he regretted opening his mouth.

"She's your employee! As an employer, shouldn't you be worried about your employees?" Zhao Ruge asked.

"I am very concerned," Bu Fang replied.

"How is this the appearance of someone who is concerned?" Zhao Ruge was somewhat speechless as he pursed his lips.

As Bu Fang finished the cup of wine once more, a touch of faint redness appeared on his fair cheeks. This was a sign that the alcohol was taking effect.

However, once a person started drinking the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, they would get the feeling of not being able to stop themselves. Therefore, Bu Fang poured another cup for himself...

Zhao Ruge's eyes that were directed at Bu Fang were almost spewing fire... He thought, "There isn't much wine in the jar, yet you're still pouring even though you've already drunk two cups! Do you feel no shame?!"

Bu Fang placed the wine cup on the table and heavily breathed out before he replied, "I am very concerned, but I am not worried since you won't do anything to her."

Bu Fang indifferently looked at Zhao Ruge and the latter's pupils constricted in response. He did not think Bu Fang would immediately guess that he was the one who abducted Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"You came here to tell me about this matter for no particular reason, that's no different than admitting that you're culprit... However, I am not worried since you wouldn't dare to do anything to her. You can't afford to offend the Ouyang family," Bu Fang said.

"Hahaha! Owner Bu has completely seen through me. I was really too reckless. I wonder if Owner Bu has any interest in joining hands with me. Now that the imperial city has descended into chaos, it's a good chance to choose a side. As long as Owner Bu is willing to join hands with me, I can guarantee that Fang Fang's Little Store shall become the most famous restaurant within the imperial city and even the entire Light Wind Empire."

Zhao Ruge's eyes suddenly became fervent as he stared at Bu Fang.

"Cooperation?" Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at Zhao Ruge. "Not interested."

"Owner Bu, don't be in a hurry to refuse me. My father is the current dynasty's Minister of the Left. We definitely have the ability to make Fang Fang's Little Store the number one restaurant within the Light Wind Empire. With your powerful puppet and supreme beast companion, it'll be easy for us to assist one of the princes into becoming the emperor," Zhao Ruge said.

Bu Fang shook his head after giving Zhao Ruge a single glance. He poured himself another cup of wine and a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was finished just like that.

After finishing the cup of wine, Bu Fang did not even give a response to Zhao Ruge. He stood up while slightly swaying and slowly walked into the kitchen.

His silence meant refusal.

The fervent expression on Zhao Ruge's face gradually disappeared, and then, he began tasting the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Egg-Fried Rice with a composed expression. However, when he picked up the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, he discovered the jar was already empty...

At that moment, Zhao Ruge really wanted to throw the empty jar at Bu Fang's head! That fellow was truly outrageous!

After he finished his meal, Zhao Ruge threw down some crystals and left in a huff. He only managed to drink a single cup of wine out of an entire jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that costed him fifteen crystals, and the rest ended up in Bu Fang's stomach. How infuriating!

...

Inside of the Zhao manor, Zhao Musheng was slowly walking within the garden while wearing an overcoat made from crane feathers. However, there was nothing beautiful about the garden that was covered by a layer of snow.

A figure glided into the manor, landed in front of Zhao Musheng and respectfully said, "The secret letter has been delivered into the hands of the crown prince."

Zhao Musheng imperceptibly nodded. He raised his hand and a

lump of pale yellow true energy that gave a feeling of tranquility and harmony hovered on his palm.

"Very good. Has the young Marquis Yang been captured?" Zhao Musheng indifferently asked.

"He has already been caught. We've placed him into the same room as Ouyang Xiaoyi," the figure respectfully replied.

Zhao Musheng lightly exhaled a cloud of white breath. A snowflake drifted into his palm and was instantly shattered into pieces by the true energy gathered there.

A terrifying force was actually hidden underneath that tranquil and harmonious true energy.

"With both the young marquis and the Ouyang family's girl on our hands, the crown prince won't be able to reject our offer... The emperor of the Light Wind Empire, very good."

Zhao Musheng dispersed the true energy gathered within his palm. He slowly stepped on the snow and left the garden, leaving behind meaningful words that lingered in the surroundings.

Chapter 98: Obey This Lord Dog's Words, Let Go Of That Girl

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes widened as she stared at the extremely haughty boy in front of her. She recognized the brat as the extremely well-known heir of a Marquis. However, what was he doing there?

Yang Chen was the seventh child of the Marquis Who Pacifies the West, Yang Mo. Whenever the Yang family was mentioned, their deeds of sacrificing themselves for their country had to be acknowledged. The head of the Yang family, Yang Mo, had four sons. The first three sons were extremely talented individuals that used to be influential figures within the imperial city. Unfortunately, all three of them died on the battlefield during their participation on military campaigns. In the end, Yang Chen was the only son left in the entire Yang family.

Therefore, the Yang family was extremely concerned about Yang Chen. As the first-in-line successor to the Marquis position, there was no room for mistakes.

"What is a brat like you doing here?" Yang Chen was very arrogant. He had always been putting effort in his cultivation with his elder brothers as his goal. Now, he had already reached the level of a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. This degree of talent and cultivation level was already considered the highest among his peers.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi looked at Yang Chen's immature yet arrogant face, she could not help but roll her eyes and reply with a

pout, "Do you really think I want to be here? There isn't even anything delicious here... This place is like hell on earth!"

Yang Chen was unable to understand Ouyang Xiaoyi's words. Even though they were being held captive, the people who abducted them was not ill-treating them. They were properly served with three meals each day and the taste of the dishes brought to them was very good. Yang Chen ate his meals with great relish.

"If you're getting excited over eating this sort of dishes, I can tell that you're someone who hasn't seen the world." Ouyang Xiaoyi held her arms across her chest as she disdainfully glanced at the dishes placed on the table as well as Yang Chen, whose lips were covered with oil.

"I haven't seen the world? A little brat like you is the one that hasn't seen the world! I've been to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant numerous times!" Yang Chen unhappily mumbled while his mouth was filled with food.

"Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" When the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was mentioned, Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted and rolled her eyes in disdain.

"What's going on? Are you looking down on the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant as well?" Yang Chen's eyes widened as he looked at Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pursed her lips and said, "Compared to the dishes

made by the smelly boss, the food from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant is no better than dregs. You haven't even tasted Owner Bu's dishes and you still dare to claim that you've seen the world... Let me ask you, have you ever tasted Fish Head Tofu Soup that increases the true energy within your body? Have you ever eaten Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that sends you into an euphoric state just from smelling the aroma? Have you ever eaten Egg-Fried Rice that sparkles?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi mentioned a few dishes from Fang Fang's Little Store in a row. As a waitress, she was naturally familiar enough with the names of the dishes to immediately list them.

Yang Chen blankly stared at Ouyang Xiaoyi in an adorable manner. He had never heard of the names of these dishes before... However, they sounded really impressive. Could a person really increase their cultivation level by eating a meal?

"Hmph! Impressive, right? I've eaten all of these dishes before!" Ouyang Xiaoyi loftily said.

Yang Chen picked up some food with his chopsticks and shoved it into his mouth. As he chewed the food, he said, "It sounds pretty good. Where's the location of the store? When are you bringing me there to have a look?"

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard his words, her large eyes immediately did a little turn. Then, a smile appeared on her adorable face as she said, "Let's go right now. None of these dishes suit my appetite. I haven't eaten anything for over a day!"

"Right now?" Yang Chen was stunned. They were currently held captive, how would they be able to leave?

"That fellow who's monitoring us is only a fifth grade Battle-King. With our cultivation level, we can instantly deal with him if we take him by surprise. Then, we'll be able to make our escape!" Ouyang Xiaoyi said with sparkling eyes.

Yang Chen raised his eyebrows and then suddenly excitedly nodded.

Immediately after, Ouyang Xiaoyi fell onto the ground and started throwing a tantrum. Her acting that was instantly performed startled Yang Chen for a moment.

When the guard outside heard the commotion, he stepped into the room and immediately saw Ouyang Xiaoyi kicking a fuss onto the ground.

"What's going on? Stop making so much noise!" The guard impatiently knitted his eyebrows together. He was annoyed that the two brats were not behaving.

"She thinks the taste of the food is too terrible. She also said your chef is a pig," Yang Chen earnestly said.

Upon hearing Yang Chen's words, the guard did not know whether to laugh or cry. After he approached the food on the table

and sampled it, he said, "The taste is pretty good though?"

Yang Chen approached the guard and said with a nod, "I think it's pretty good as well... However, she thinks the chef is a pig, so she doesn't want to eat the food here and wants to go outside."

"Hmm?" Just then, the guard noticed something was wrong. In the next moment, true energy burst forth from Yang Chen and restricted the guard's limbs. Even though the guard was a fifth grade Battle-King, he was unable to react after receiving a sneak attack from such a close range.

Ouyang Xiaoyi leapt off the ground while brandishing her fists and greeted the guard's face with a punch.

The Ouyang family's style was kicking their opponents when they were down. Therefore, Ouyang Xiaoyi's next few punches all landed on the guard's face. The guard fell onto the ground and lost consciousness.

Then, Ouyang Xiaoyi pulled Yang Chen along as they left the room that imprisoned them at a trot and snuck out of the mansion.

...

During the bright sunny days in the imperial city, the sunlight shining through the clouds was rather dazzling. As it shone over the people, it felt warm and comfortable.

After Bu Fang finished serving the first wave of customers, the store regained its tranquility once more. And so, Bu Fang was curled up on a chair near the entrance like the past few days. There was sunlight on that day and he was feeling drowsy from the warmth felt throughout his body.

It was quite comfortable to pass the days like this.

"Smelly boss! Save me!" At the entrance of the alleyway, a heart-rending scream rang out. Bu Fang, whose eyes had just closed, opened them and puzzledly looked into the distance.

There, two runty figures were running like mad while taking wide strides as a few experts with powerful auras chased after them. The speed of the pursuers was very fast and they were right about to catch up to the two brats.

One of the Battle-Kings caught up with them and directly grabbed hold of Ouyang Xiaoyi. He picked her up and said with a sneer, "Let's see how you're going to run now!"

They did not expect the two canaries kept within a birdcage would be able to get out! They almost let them escape!

"Do you know who I am? I'll make my grandpa strip you down and hang you up on the walls of the imperial city!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was furious. The smelly boss' store was not far from there, but she was caught at the last moment. The anxious feeling of waiting for help made her want to go crazy.

"Smelly boss, save me! Blacky, save me!" Therefore, Ouyang Xiaoyi started screaming for help, hoping that Bu Fang would save her. However, she felt that her chances of escaping might be much higher if Blacky came instead...

Blacky, who was lying on the ground, murmured as it opened its eyes. It lazily yawned while sticking its tongue out and exhaled a cloud of white breath.

"Who's calling for your lord dog?" Blacky puzzledly scanned its surroundings and soon found Ouyang Xiaoyi struggling to escape at the entrance of the alleyway.

"You brat, why are you calling your lord dog for no reason? Don't you know how busy your lord dog is..." Blacky lazily got up and slowly headed for the alleyway's entrance while striding like a cat.

Bu Fang slowly walked out of the store. He stood at the entrance and expressionlessly looked toward the alleyway's entrance.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's large eyes immediately lit up when she spotted the big black dog slowly approaching them. She yelled out, "Blacky, save me!"

Yang Chen sniffled his nose that was slightly numb from the cold and puzzledly looked at the swarthy big black dog that was rather overweight...

The few guards were also looking at Blacky with weird

expressions on their faces.

Did this girl really think a dog would be able to rescue her from the hands of a few Battle-Kings? Should they call her naive... or naive?

However, in the next moment, these people were all shocked by the big black dog that started speaking like a human.

"Obey this lord dog's words, let go of that girl..." Blacky's lukewarm voice sounded out of nowhere.

Chapter 99: Don't Break The Floor Tiles

Next to the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the crown prince palace.

Inside the huge palace, the crown prince was sitting up straight, alone. His expression was grave and his eyes revealed the myriad of thoughts running through his mind. There were a few sheets of secret letters lying on the table in front of him.

"Zhao Musheng, that wily old fox... I knew he was the one behind all of this!" The crown prince's expression was agitated. He picked up one of the secret letters from the table and became even angrier as he looked at it. The letter was soon crumpled into a ball.

"If only Xushi was still around..." Ji Chengan thought as he let out a long sigh. If Xushi was around, he would probably be able to provide him with a good idea. At the very least, he would not appear as passive.

The emperor's sudden passing caught everyone by surprise. If the news was not accidentally leaked by one of the eunuchs working in the palace, they might still be in the dark.

"Abducting both Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen... This Zhao Musheng really is brazen. Nevertheless, there's no reason why we can't work together. If I agreed to his offer, that would be equivalent to gaining the support of both the Ouyang family and the Yang family... In that case, it wouldn't be easy for my second brother to overthrow me... even if he's colluding with the sects!" The crown prince muttered. Then, he unravelled the crumpled

piece of secret letter once more and carefully examined it for a while. He seemed to have made some kind of huge decision in his mind.

...

Zhao Musheng lightly blew on the cup of tea in his hands. He took a sip of tea before he mildly asked, "What did you say? A few Battle-Kings can't even watch over two Battle-Spirit level brats?"

The complexion of the man in brocade robe, standing before him, suddenly became extremely pale. He hurriedly knelt down on the floor and fearfully said, "My lord, the fault lies with me. I've already sent some of the men to bring them back... But..."

"But what?" Zhao Musheng indifferently asked as he continued to drink his tea.

The man in brocade robe sneaked a peek at Zhao Musheng before he cautiously replied, "The Ouyang family's little princess and Yang family's heir are fleeing toward that mysterious store..."

"Mysterious store? Hmm? Are you talking about the place that has been the talk of the town recently? The restaurant that even the emperor himself personally visited?" Zhao Musheng's drinking movement suddenly paused as he puzzledly asked. He had heard some rumors about that little restaurant as well, but he did not know much about it.

However, from the data he gathered, he knew that the background of the restaurant was definitely not simple.

"A supreme beast and a puppet with the capability of repelling a seventh grade Battle-Saint? This store is really something else... Have you investigated them yet?" Zhao Musheng asked.

"We did, but we didn't find out anything," the man in brocade robe replied. That was the reason he was feeling fearful. If Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen escaped into that store, they would need to get through that store in order to catch them once again. However, the store... seemed to be out of the ordinary.

"Hmph! If you can't even accomplish something like this, what am I keeping you around for? I am spending tens of thousands of crystals on your intelligence network every year, yet you can't even find out anything about a little restaurant?" Zhao Musheng coldly sorted and said, while glancing at the man.

The man felt cold sweat running down his back.

"Forget it, perhaps this store really is more mysterious. On this vast continent, there are many unknown powers that we can't even imagine. It's not your fault that you can't find out anything. However... you must definitely bring the Ouyang family's girl and the Yang family's heir back here! If need be, you'll personally do it. At any rate, I want to see them standing in front of me."

That man's expression suddenly became ghastly. "My lord, but there's... a supreme beast watching over that store! Furthermore,

even that iron puppet is not something a mere sixth grade Battle-Emperor like me could deal with."

"A supreme beast? Hmph... Do you really believe the rumors? Do you really think a supreme beast would act as a watchdog for a store? Even the Celestial Arcanum Sect, the most mysterious group within the ten great sects, doesn't have that capability, let alone some store."

Evidently, Zhao Musheng did not believe a supreme beast would be watching over a store. Perhaps the failure of both Xiao Meng and Eunuch Lian was just a fluke? They might have been accidentally deluded by that dog.

Zhao Musheng was very confident of his hypothesis because he had seen a real ninth grade supreme beast before. He knew how terrifying those existences were. How could one of them become a watchdog for a little restaurant... That was something completely unfounded.

Zhao Musheng's adamant attitude was very upsetting for the man in the brocade robe... However, there was nothing else he could do. He could only give it a shot. At the moment, the only choice he had was to believe that his master's conjecture was correct.

...

"There's actually such a wondrous dog in this world?! It's actually capable of human speech!" A fifth grade Battle-King was blankly

staring at Blacky. He felt as if his world view was completely flipped over.

Yang Chen was also blankly staring at Blacky. This was his first time meeting Blacky and he did not expect this dog would actually start speaking.

"Let go of that girl... Is that what a dog like you should be saying?" Yang Chen thought while feeling dumbfounded.

"Hahaha! Is a fat dog like you planning to save a damsel in distress? This is just too..." The Battle-Kings were all laughing and were completely unable to stop.

Bu Fang was standing at the entrance of the store. He could hear their completely unstoppable laughter, but his expression was deadpan. A faint trace of pity for them appeared in his eyes.

The other Battle-Kings who behaved arrogantly in front of Blacky... were all dead.

While thinking about this, Bu Fang could not help but open his mouth as he suddenly said, "Lazy dog, go easy on them. Don't break the floor again. It was just repaired and repairing the tiles again would be... troublesome."

When Blacky heard Bu Fang's words, it immediately rolled its eyes and muttered under its breath. It could not be even bothered to reply.

The Battle-King that was restraining Ouyang Xiaoyi was frowning as he watched the scene unfold. Alarms were going off in his mind... A restaurant situated within an alleyway and a dog that was capable of human speech? He could not figure out why everything seemed so familiar.

"Why are we wasting our breath on a dog? This dog is so fat, this is just nice for us to have a dog meat hot pot! Delicious!" However, the other Battle-King was not taking the situation seriously. He was rolling up his sleeves as he walked toward Blacky with a sneer on his face. From his posture, he seemed to be... trying to catch a dog?

Blacky was looking at that Battle-King with sincere eyes as it stretched out an exquisite paw that was trembling.

"Hehe, you finally understood the situation. Too bad, it's already too late. There's no use even if you act cute!" That Battle-King suddenly started laughing.

However, in the next moment, when Blacky's paw lightly touched his body, the Battle-King's laughter was stifled and he became frozen on the spot.

"Hmm? What's going on?" The Battle-King restraining Ouyang Xiaoyi puzzledly asked with a frown.

As he finished speaking, he felt a terrifying gust of wind blew past his body—along with a human figure—causing his hair to

flutter around.

Boom!!

A human figure was instantly shot through half of the imperial city and it pierced through countless amount of houses before ending up as a pile of meat paste on the ground.

"Oh, this way the ground won't be damaged. Bark," Blacky mildly said as an imperious aura suddenly burst forth from its eyes. In front of it, that Battle-King was no different from an ant.

The remaining Battle-King, who was restraining Xiaoyi, started trembling when he finally realized where he was.

According to the rumors, there was a black-hearted store situated within an alleyway inside the imperial city with a supreme beast watching over it... He originally thought the rumor was just a joke. However, his colleague was just sent flying and turned into meat paste with the touch of a single dog paw... If anyone dared to claim this dog was not a supreme beast, he would personally confront them!

At that moment, the Battle-King was kicking himself inwardly. He never expected the two brats would actually flee toward this store...

Suddenly, the Battle-King felt his hands went empty. Ouyang Xiaoyi had stomped on his face and broken free from his restraints.

She landed on the ground and quickly made her escape.

"I..." The Battle-King's pupils constricted as he suddenly felt a dreadful feeling before a furry and cute dog paw tapped on his stomach.

It was a very light tap...

Chapter 100: The Tsundere Shota

Rumble!

When Song Tao hurried to the alleyway where the store was located, his body froze for a moment when a violent gust of wind suddenly blew past him. During that instant, he seemed to have spotted a pitiful figure within that gust of wind.

"What's going on?" Song Tao thought as he looked behind him in confusion. Then, he heard a loud noise. The ground started trembling and a cloud of dust was slowly rising from the debris in the distance.

Song Tao suddenly felt a chill coursing through his body.

"Oh, not bad. Doing it this way simplify things," Bu Fang said in satisfaction with a nod. At least, the alleyway's newly repaired quartzite flooring was not broken by Blacky's paws once more.

While Song Tao was still in a daze, two of the Battle-Kings were scrambling to escape. When they saw Song Tao, they fearfully shouted, "Si... Sir! Hurry up and run! That dog... is too terrifying!"

Song Tao's heart sank. As he had expected... the mission failed. Not even four Battle-Kings were able to bring back Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen. How was he going to make a report when he got back?

However, Song Tao was unwilling to just leave like that. Therefore, he headed into the alleyway to face that terrifying big black dog who sent a Battle-King flying with a flick of its claw.

Blacky indifferently gave Song Tao a glance and rolled its eyes when it saw the latter's wary appearance. It lazily returned to the front of the store while striding like a cat and went back to sleep.

Meanwhile, Ouyang Xiaoyi was pulling Yang Chen into the store, while completely ignoring Song Tao who was standing at the alleyway's entrance. A gust of cold wind blew past, bringing a burst of chilliness.

"Brat, this is the place I mentioned, that... smelly boss' store. Even though the owner himself is so-so, the taste of his dishes are really good," Ouyang Xiaoyi said after she pulled Yang Chen into the store.

As Yang Chen assessed the store's environment, a look of disdain suddenly surfaced on his juvenile face. He held his arms across his chest as he said, "You were talking about this cramped little place? The furnishing is ordinary, the customers are ordinary as well... How could there be anything decent here? Were you lying to me?"

Yang Chen actually distrusted her sincere words? Ouyang Xiaoyi immediately became anxious. She gave Yang Chen a wide-eyed stare as she said, "Why would I lie to you? If I were really lying, then I'll get smelly boss to apologize to you!"

Next to them, Bu Fang was startled for a moment. A trace of

confusion flashed across his face as he thought, "Why would I have to apologize if you're the one lying? Where's the logic in that?"

"Hmph! Do you think I care about his apology?" Yang Chen glanced at Bu Fang and laughed in disdain. Bu Fang was only a mere chef in his eyes. What could a chef do, ascend into the skies?

"You ignorant fellow, you'll soon understand how foolish your words are!" Ouyang Xiaoyi sneered as she turned to Bu Fang and said, "Smelly boss, give me a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs! We'll let him experience a real craving!"

Yang Chen pursed his lips. As his gaze swept toward the menu hung on the wall, his pupils constricted to nearly the size of a black sesame seed.

"Aren't these prices marked wrongly? Why are crystals used as the standard? Do you really think your dishes are panaceas?!" After seeing the prices on the menu, Yang Chen could not help but complain.

Bu Fang was almost automatically immune to his complaints and could not even be bothered to reply. So what if Yang Chen was complaining? Bu Fang was not going to lose any flesh from his complaints. If Yang Chen was going to taste his dishes, he would still have to order them... He would still have to submit to the price of the dishes.

With his skills, he was that confident.

Song Tao was unwilling to give up, so he stepped into the store as well. With a single glance, he caught sight of Yang Chen, who was expressing his disdain. Song Tao's eyes lit up as he thought, "The Yang family's heir, this is an important person. I must definitely bring him back with me."

"What are you having, look at the menu yourself." Before Song Tao could say anything, a cold voice rang out next to him.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly looking at Song Tao while pointing toward the menu behind his back.

Song Tao was startled for a moment. When he glanced at the menu, his nostrils slightly widened and steam gushed out... He thought, "Damn, this is a daylight robbery! The black-hearted store truly deserves its reputation!"

However, he was unwilling to give up like that. The fair and tender Ouyang loli was right there. The tsundere shota, Yang Chen, was standing in front of him as well. If Song Tao were to leave like this, it was not any different from giving up on eating two pieces of overwhelmingly fragrant Red Braised Meat when you were about to starve to death...

"Owner! Give me a serving of... Egg-Fried Rice!" Song Tao endured the pain in his heart as he ordered the Egg-Fried Rice, that cost one crystal per serving. His heart seemed to be bleeding. Earning crystals was not so easy nowadays!

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard what Song Tao ordered, she

immediately gave him a disdainful glance. She scornfully snorted and said, "Smelly boss, hurry up and cook my Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that costs fifty crystals per serving!"

As the princess of the Ouyang family, she lacked anything but crystals!

"What about you? What are you ordering?" Bu Fang asked as he looked at Yang Chen.

"Since they've already ordered, then get me a serving of... Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine," Yang Chen said with his chin held high.

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened as he glanced at Yang Chen and said, "Children are not allowed to drink alcohol."

Yang Chen's body suddenly stiffened for a moment. His little eyes widened as he looked straight at Bu Fang, while the latter expressionlessly looked back at him. After a while, Yang Chen looked away in defeat... How exasperating!

"Forget it, give me a serving of Red Braised Meat!"

"Alright, wait a moment." Bu Fang nodded before turning around and heading into the kitchen.

Song Tao carefully found a seat and sat down. His eyes were constantly assessing his surroundings. At the entrance to the kitchen, he saw a mechanical figure... Was that the black-hearted

store's puppet that could face a seventh grade Battle-Saint head-on?

When Whitey's round head suddenly turned and its mechanical red eyes met Song Tao's eyes, the latter hurriedly turned his gaze away in fear.

"Hmph! If the taste of the dishes here is terrible... I'll definitely look down on this place! How dare you charge such a high price for food that tastes terrible! I will also publicize to the entire imperial city and let everyone know that this place is a sham!" Yang Chen declared in a tsundere-like manner.

Ouyang Xiaoyi rolled her eyes. She was too lazy to care about this tsundere shota. At that moment, she just wanted to eat the smelly boss' dishes. After not eating for a day, she was feeling extremely hungry... She even lost weight!

Yang Chen was still rambling on by himself. However, the rich fragrance of meat soon wafted out from the kitchen.

The smell of meat slowly drifted out—like a piece of silk caressing their faces—giving them a false sense of reality. Ouyang Xiaoyi's exquisite nose was upturned as she furiously breathed in this meaty aroma. Her face was filled with happiness.

It was this aroma! This was the smelly boss' aroma!

After a while, a figure walked out from the darkness of the

kitchen. Bu Fang's slender fingers were holding a porcelain plate containing the amber-colored Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, which was overflowing with vibrant colors and light. Piping hot steam, accompanied with a rich fragrance, was rising from the plate.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was already quite eager to start eating. Her large eyes were staring straight at Bu Fang.

"Here's your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, take your time," Bu Fang said as he placed the plate in front of Ouyang Xiaoyi and patted her head.

Then, he returned into the kitchen and began cooking the other dishes.

The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was captivatingly fragrant. The smell alone was causing Yang Chen, who had been complaining all day, to enter into a daze. His eyes were staring straight at the amber-colored pieces of meat.

Even Song Tao could not help but be attracted by the aroma. However, he was more concerned about how he was going to snatch the two brats out of the store...

"Oh... without having to get into a fight," Song Tao guiltily thought as he glanced at Whitey and the latter's mechanical eyes turned toward him once more.